

RECKONING



BP to pay record \$4.5 billion settlement

In this April 21, 2010 photo, fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the off shore oil rig Deepwater Horizon.

(AP Photo/US Coast Guard, File)

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The largest environmental disaster in U.S. history came to reckoning Thursday, as British oil giant BP announced it was paying a record \$4.5

billion in a settlement with the federal government over the 2010 Gulf oil spill disaster. Three BP employees were also charged, two of them with manslaughter. The settlement was the "largest total criminal reso-

lution in the history of the United States," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said. The settlement and the indictments came 2 1/2 years after the fiery drilling-rig explosion that killed 11 workers and set off the biggest

offshore oil spill in U.S. history. The settlement includes nearly \$1.3 billion in fines, the largest criminal penalty in the nation's history. As part of the deal, BP will plead guilty to charges in-

volving the 11 deaths and lying to Congress about how much oil was spewing from the blown-out well.

Continued on Page 5



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President visits storm-ravaged areas in New York

JAMES BARRON

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NEW YORK — President Barack Obama said Thursday that he was assigning Shaun Donovan, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to oversee the New York area's long-term recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

"I'm very proud of you, New York," the president said after meeting with emergency workers on Staten Island. "You guys are tough; you bounced back just as America always bounces back. The same is going to be true this time."

The president said he wanted federal officials to work with state and local leaders, both in New York and New Jersey, "to come up with a game plan for how we're going to be able to resource the rebuilding process."

"It's going to require everybody to focus on getting the job done," the presi-

dent said. "We're going to have to put some of the turf battles aside, we're going to have to make sure everybody's focused on doing the job as opposed to worrying about who's getting the credit or who's getting the contracts and all that stuff that sometimes

goes into the rebuilding process."

Obama toured Staten Island on a day of thin, almost hazy sun, a bright contrast to the ominous, slate-gray sky just before and just after the storm hurled a wall of water against the coast. He flew to Ken-



President Barack Obama greets citizens affected by Hurricane Sandy as Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), left, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, right, look on at a relief center in New York, Nov. 15, 2012. Obama toured the storm-racked region and met with victims and emergency workers dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy on Thursday.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

nedy International Airport and boarded a helicopter that took him over the Rockaway Peninsula and over Breezy Point, a waterfront community where 100 homes were destroyed in a fire. Some homes there now have plastic sheeting where the roofs used to be. Obama's helicopter went on to Staten Island, where he landed at Miller Field, a former Army Air Corps installation that has become a center for efforts to rebuild from the storm.

The storm killed more than 100 people as it churned up the East Coast, with most of the deaths in low-lying sections of New York and New Jersey.

But it exacted a particularly high toll on Staten Island. Of 43 deaths attributed to the storm in New York City, 23 were on Staten Island. But the storm also left millions without power and thousands in need of homes.

On Thursday, the president stopped at a federal disaster recovery center, where a group of about 200 residents cheered as he arrived. He chatted with the Staten Island borough president, James P. Molinaro, and other officials. Later he was expected to stop at a Small Business Administration tent and greet a line of disaster workers from FEMA Corps, an AmeriCorps program started in 2009. He also visited a food distribution tent.

In one tent, the president shook hands and hugged some people. Some volunteers told him they were from Texas, others from West Virginia, others from other states.

"We got the whole country represented here," the president said. "We're proud of you guys."

The president left one tent and encountered the police commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly. □

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Hamas targets Tel Aviv as part of rocket barrage

IBRAHIM BARZAK, Associated Press
KARIN LAUB, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian militants targeted densely populated Tel Aviv in Israel's heartland with rockets for the first time Thursday, part of an unprecedented barrage that threatened to provoke an Israeli ground assault on Gaza. Three Israelis were killed. Air raid sirens wailed and panicked residents ran for cover in Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial and cultural capital. Israel responded by moving troops and heavy weapons toward Gaza and authorizing the call-up of tens of thousands of reservists. There was no word on where the two rockets aimed at Tel Aviv landed, raising the possibility they fell into the Mediterranean. A third rocket landed in an open area on the southern outskirts of Tel Aviv.

The fighting, the heaviest in four years, came after Israel launched a ferocious air assault Wednesday to stop repeated rocket fire from Gaza. The powerful Hamas military chief was killed in that strike, and another 18 Palestinians have died over two days, including five children. Some 100 Palestinians have been wounded.

Israeli warplanes struck dozens of Hamas-linked



Israeli soldiers take cover as a siren warned of rockets prior to the funeral of an Israeli civilian who was killed by a militant rocket, in Kiryat Malachi, Israel, Nov. 15, 2012. Israel and Hamas widened their increasingly deadly conflict over Gaza on Thursday, as a militant rocket killed three civilians in an apartment block in the small southern Israeli town.

(Rina Castelnuevo/The New York Times)

targets in Gaza on Thursday, sending loud booms echoing across the narrow Mediterranean coastal strip at regular intervals, followed by gray columns of smoke. After nightfall, several explosions shook Gaza City several minutes apart, a sign the strikes were not letting up, and the military said the targets were about 70 underground rocket-launching sites.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army was hitting Hamas hard with what he called surgical strikes, and warned of a "significant widening" of the Gaza operation. Is-

rael will "continue to take whatever action is necessary to defend our people," said Netanyahu, who is up for re-election in January.

There were mounting signs of a ground operation. At least 12 trucks were seen transporting tanks and armored personnel carriers toward Gaza late Thursday, and a number of buses carrying soldiers arrived. Israeli TV stations said a Gaza incursion was expected on Friday, though military officials said no decision had been made.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said he authorized the call-up of reservists, and the army said up to 30,000 additional troops could be drafted. □

Fighter jet crashes at Florida Air Force base

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Florida (AP) — An Air Force F-22 Raptor fighter jet crashed onto a Florida Panhandle highway Thursday, but the pilot was able to eject safely and there were no immediate reports of injuries on the ground, the military said.

The single-seat stealth fighter, part of a program that has been plagued with problems, went down Thursday afternoon near Tyndall Air Force Base, just south of Panama City. The pilot was receiving medical treatment at the base and a section of a highway was closed as rescuers responded.

The cause of the crash isn't clear, but the Air Force has been trying to address problems with the \$190 million aircraft for several years. In 2008, pilots began reporting a sharp increase in hypoxia-like problems, forcing the Air Force to finally acknowledge concerns about the F-22's oxygen supply system. Two years later, the oxygen system contributed to a fatal crash. Though pilot error ultimately was deemed to be the cause, the fleet was grounded for four months in 2011. □

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Top officials testify in fallout of Petraeus scandal

NANCY BENAC
ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top national security officials trudged to Capitol Hill on Thursday to grapple with fallout from the David Petraeus sex scandal as Defense Secretary Leon Panetta asked service chiefs to review ethics training for military officers. He said he was unaware of any other top brass who could turn out to be ensnared in the debacle.

One person missing from the tableau: Afghan war chief Gen. John Allen, whose nomination to take over in Europe is on hold because of suggestive emails turned up in the investigation.

Legislators went forward



Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his confirmation to be the commander of the International Security Assistance Force and to be commander of the U.S. Forces, Afghanistan. Dunford would replace Gen. John Allen, who is the subject of a Pentagon investigation for potentially inappropriate communications.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

with a hearing on the nomination of Gen. Joseph Dunford to replace Allen in Afghanistan. But with Allen's own future uncertain, they put off consideration of his promotion to U.S. European Command chief and NATO supreme allied commander. Allen had initially been scheduled to testify.

Panetta, speaking at a news conference in Bangkok, gave new words of support to Allen, voicing "tremendous confidence" in the general. Citing a string of ethical lapses by senior military officers, however, Panetta asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff to review ethics training and look for ways to help officers stay out of trouble.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opened Dunford's hearing with kind words for Allen, saying, "I continue to believe that General Allen is one of our best military leaders. And I continue to have confidence in his ability to lead the war in Afghanistan."

Leading administration officials, meanwhile, met privately with lawmakers for a third straight day to explain how the Petraeus investigation was handled and explore its national security implications. Among those appearing before the House Intelligence Committee: Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and Acting CIA Director Michael Morell.

Maryland Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, the commit-

tee's top Democrat, said after the hearing he was satisfied that the FBI had behaved properly in not notifying the White House or lawmakers about the inquiry sooner, in keeping with post-Watergate rules set up to prevent interference in criminal investigations.

But committee member Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said lawmakers would continue to ask questions because "there's a lot of information we need ... with respect to the facts about the allegations against General Petraeus." Petraeus, the much-honored retired general, resigned his CIA post Friday after acknowledging an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell. The FBI began investigating the matter last summer but didn't notify the White House of Congress until after the election. The CIA on Thursday opened an "exploratory" investigation into Petraeus' conduct. The inquiry "doesn't presuppose any particular outcome," said CIA spokesman Preston Golson. At the same time, Army officials say that, at this point, there is no appetite for recalling Petraeus to active duty to pursue any adultery charges against him. In the course of investigating the Petraeus situation, the FBI uncovered suggestive emails between Allen and Florida socialite Jill Kelley, both of them married. □



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BP to pay record \$4.5 billion settlement

Continued from Front Page

"We believe this resolution is in the best interest of BP and its shareholders," said Carl-Henric Svanberg, BP chairman.

"It removes two significant

readings that should have been glaring indications of trouble just before the blowout.

In addition, David Rainey, BP's former vice president of exploration for the Gulf of Mexico, was charged with obstruction of Con-

attorneys Shaun Clarke and David Gerger said in a statement. "No one should take any satisfaction in this indictment of an innocent man. This is not justice."

The settlement, which is subject to approval by a federal judge, includes

New Orleans. He said much of the money will be used to restore the Gulf.

Holder said the criminal investigation is still going on. Before Thursday, the only person charged in the di-

saster was a former BP engineer who was arrested in April on obstruction of justice charges, accused of deleting text messages about the company's handling of the spill. □



U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, left, speaks at a news conference about the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill settlement and criminal penalties in New Orleans, La. Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. Holder says much of the money BP has agreed to pay will be used to restore the environment in the Gulf.

(AP Photo/Matthew Hinton)

legal risks and allows us to vigorously defend the company against the remaining civil claims."

Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer said the deaths and the oil spill "resulted from BP's culture of privileging profit over prudence."

Separately, BP rig workers Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine were indicted on federal charges of manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter, accused of repeatedly disregarding abnormal high-pressure

gress and making false statements. Prosecutors said he withheld information that more oil was gushing from the well than he let on.

Rainey's lawyers said he did "absolutely nothing wrong." And attorneys for the two rig workers accused the Justice Department of making scapegoats out of them.

"Bob was not an executive or high-level BP official. He was a dedicated rig worker who mourns his fallen co-workers every day," Kaluza

payments of nearly \$2.4 billion to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, \$350 million to the National Academy of Sciences and about \$500 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC accused BP of misleading investors by lowballing the amount of crude that was spilling.

"This marks the largest single criminal fine and the largest total criminal resolution in the history of the United States," Holder said at a news conference in

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Obama meets chief executives as fiscal reckoning nears

HELENE COOPER

NELSON D. SCHWARTZ

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WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama extended an olive branch to business leaders this week, seeking their support as he prepares to negotiate with congressional Republicans over the fiscal impasse in Washington.

If Congress and the president cannot reach a deal to reduce the deficit by January, more than \$600 billion in tax increases and spending cuts will go into effect immediately — a prospect that many chief executives and others warn could tip the economy back into recession.

Even so, Obama has some fence-mending to do before he can count on any

serious backing from the business community.

"The president brought up that he hadn't always had the best relationship with business, and he didn't think he deserved that, but he understood that's where things were and wanted it to be better," said David M. Cote, chief executive of Honeywell.

He was one of a dozen corporate leaders invited to meet Obama at the White House for 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon, after the president's first news conference since the election.

While Obama did not present a detailed plan at Wednesday's meeting or reveal what he would propose in terms of new corporate taxes, he strongly



Ginni Rometty, chief executive of I.B.M., exiting the White House after President Barack Obama held a meeting with corporate leaders, in Washington, Nov. 14, 2012.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

reiterated that he would not allow tax cuts for the middle class to expire.

The president, according to attendees and aides, said he was committed to a balanced approach of reductions in entitlements and other government spending and increases in revenue.

With time running out, many observers expect the president and Republican leaders in Congress to come up with a short-term compromise that prevents the full slate of tax increases and spending cuts from hitting in January.

That would give both sides more time to come up with a far-reaching deal on entitlement spending, even as they work on a broad tax overhaul later next year.

One corporate official briefed on the meeting said that the chief executives came away with a sense that Obama was poised to present a more formal proposal in the next few days, but that he did not press them for support on particular policies.

"It was more of a back and

forth," he said.

The chief executives from some of the country's biggest and most well-known companies, including Procter & Gamble and IBM, were not unified on everything, according to one who was interviewed after the meeting.

Many of the executives who described the meeting would speak only on condition of anonymity. The outreach to business comes as both the White House and corporate America maneuver ahead of the year-end deadline, as well as the beginning of Obama's second term. Many executives were put off by what they saw as anti-business rhetoric coming from the White House in his first term, and many also oppose tax increases on the rich that Obama favors but would hit them personally. Both sides have plenty to gain from a better relationship. Business leaders want to buffer their image in the wake of the recession and the financial crisis, while Obama would gain valuable leverage if

he could persuade even a few chief executives to come out in favor of higher taxes on people with incomes over \$250,000. Lloyd C. Blankfein, chief executive of Goldman Sachs, endorsed higher tax rates in an opinion article published in The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday.

"I believe that tax increases, especially for the wealthiest, are appropriate, but only if they are joined by serious cuts in discretionary spending and entitlements," he wrote.

While Blankfein and other Wall Street leaders have been speaking out about the dangers of the fiscal impasse, only one executive from the financial services industry, Kenneth I. Chenault of American Express, was at Wednesday's meeting. Afterward, the corporate leaders seemed pleased with the tone of the meeting but cautious about the prospect of finding common ground with the White House on the hard budget choices facing Congress and the president. □



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THE 'FISCAL CLIFF,' EXPLAINED

JACKIE CALMES

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Many Americans must be wondering: What is all this about a "fiscal cliff"? And why did it receive so little attention during the presidential campaign?

Well, it's complicated – the so-called cliff, that is. And most solutions are politically painful. In a rare show of bipartisanship, or mutual protection, both parties ducked the debate until after the election. What follows is an attempt to demystify the issue that President Barack Obama and the lame-duck Congress now are struggling over, and perhaps will occupy them right through the holidays.

Q: What is the fiscal cliff?

A: The term refers to more than \$500 billion in tax increases and across-the-board spending cuts scheduled to take effect after Jan. 1 – for fiscal year 2013 alone – unless Obama and Republicans reach an alternative deficit-reduction deal. Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, who is not known for catchy phrases, coined the metaphor "fiscal cliff" last winter to warn of the dangerous yet avoidable drop-off ahead in the nation's fiscal path. It stuck.

Q: If we go over this so-called cliff, what happens?

A: Taxes would rise for nearly every taxpayer and many businesses. Financing for most federal programs, military and domestic, would be cut. Many economists say that while annual budget deficits are too high, these new taxes and spending cuts would be too much deficit reduction, too suddenly, for a weak economy. More than \$500 billion equals roughly 3 percent to 4 percent of gross domestic product. The Congressional Budget Office has said the result would be a short recession, though some analysts say the measures could be managed so they do less damage. "Slope," they argue, is a better metaphor than cliff.

Q: Exactly what tax increases are in store?

A: When a tax cut expires, the practical effect is a tax increase. And a slew of tax cuts – \$400 billion for 2013 – expires on Dec. 31: All of the Bush-era rate reductions; smaller tax cuts that periodically expire for businesses and individuals; and the 2-percentage-point cut in payroll taxes that Obama pushed in 2010, increasing an average worker's take-home pay by about \$1,000 a year.

Also, 28 million taxpayers – about one in five, all middle to upper-income – would have to pay the alternative minimum tax in 2012, raising their taxes more. That is because Congress has failed to pass an inflation adjustment, as it usually does, to restrict the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT largely to the affluent.

Q: Is there a best-case outcome here?

A: Many budget experts and economists are hoping for a two-part deal. The first part would extend many of the tax cuts and repeal the automatic spending cuts to avert the changes scheduled after Jan. 1. But it would be contingent on the second part: a framework for reducing projected long-term deficits by overhauling both the tax code – to raise revenues – and entitlement programs – chiefly Medicare and Medicaid, whose rising costs are unsustainable given an aging population.

Those overhauls would preoccupy Obama and Congress through 2013 and perhaps 2014. Such an agreement would set specific targets for new tax revenue and spending cuts to reduce deficits by about \$4 trillion over a decade, giving Congress and the president more time to work out the details. If they failed to do so, presumably other automatic changes might be in store as an enforcement action – setting up yet another looming deadline for the future. □

As GOP gathers, prescriptions for 2016

JEFF ZELENY

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LAS VEGAS – The polite praise initially showered upon Mitt Romney for having waged a good fight against President Barack Obama has given way to a plea from some Republicans: Please stop talking. A week after the election, as Republicans examine how to recalibrate and regain their footing, Romney's suggestion that he lost the race because of the "gifts" that Obama gave to black, Latino and young voters did not sit well with some party leaders gathered here for a meeting of the Republican Governors Association.

Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana grew visibly agitated when asked about the comments that Romney made during a conference call with donors on Wednesday. Jindal said the party's future depended on expunging the mind-set that Republicans are not committed to policies that benefit "every American who wants to pursue the American dream – period."

"If we learn one thing from this campaign, we had better learn as a party that we've got to go after every single vote," Jindal said in an interview. "We need to say that, and we need to believe that."

As Republicans lament losing the race for the White House and failing to capitalize on a chance to take control of the Senate, the party is moving forward without a clear national leader. But Republicans have a deep reservoir of strength in their roster of 30 governors, several of whom are planting seeds for a potential presidential bid.

It is far too early for a shortlist of prospective candidates in the 2016 campaign – the

election, after all, is 1,454 days away – but the early aspirations were on display here. The hallways of the Encore, a resort on the Strip, were filled with nearly as much chatter about the next presidential race as the last one.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey held court with admirers as he took his first out-of-state trip since Hurricane Sandy eviscerated his state last month. He brushed aside questions from reporters, but his presence here underscored his eagerness to move beyond any bit-

deep bench of Republican governors.

He pointed out that Republicans now control 30 governor's offices, compared with 19 for Democrats, saying, "We are keeping score."

In four years, the race for the White House is likely to be a wide-open and full-throated contest, with an unusually long roster of Republicans and Democrats competing for their nomination. Nearly all of the governors who are eyeing the possibility of running must first win re-election.



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, center, at the Republican Governors Association annual conference in Las Vegas, Nov. 15, 2012. (Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

terness among Republicans over his effusive praise of Obama in the days before the election.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who has emerged as a leading symbol of Republican strength after fending off a recall attempt this year, was given a prominent speaking slot here. He urged his party to adopt a new tone, saying, "There's got to be a positive reason to support Republicans."

The chairman of the governors' association, Bob McDonnell of Virginia, a state that has solidified its role as a presidential battleground, received accolades for presiding over a

Not all prospective candidates have that hurdle. Sen. Even as Republicans look forward, party leaders said they also needed to exam thoroughly what went wrong in the 2012 campaign and find ways to strengthen the nuts and bolts of their organization and broaden their appeal. One of the bluntest assessments came from Haley Barbour, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee and a former governor of Mississippi, who said: "We've got to give our political organization a very serious proctology exam. We need to look everywhere." □

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Jordan police vow to strike those who stir unrest

JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Jordanian authorities will strike those who incite violence during protests with an "iron fist," the country's police chief said Thursday as the Islamist-led opposition vowed to continue demonstrations that have rattled the U.S.-allied kingdom.

The protests, which erupted Tuesday across Jordan in response to the government's hiking fuel and gas prices, are the largest and most sustained to hit the country since the start of uprisings in the region nearly two years ago. Gunmen taking advantage of street chaos caused by the protests fired on two police stations late Wednesday, wounding 17 people, including 13 police officers, officials said. One of the assailants was killed in the ensu-

ing firefight.

"We will hit with an iron fist those who violated the law by stirring unrest," said Gen. Hussein Majali, adding that he had "zero tolerance" for such actions. Since Tuesday, 157 protesters — including two Syrian

refugees — were arrested for street violence, Majali said. The Syrians confessed to have been paid by an unidentified Jordanian political party to join protests to beef up crowd numbers, he added.

Other "outlaws" with po-



Jordanian policemen detain protesters blocking a main road during a demonstration against a rise in fuel prices in downtown Amman, Jordan.

(AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

lice records took advantage of the disorder to rob banks and homes and carry out carjackings, he said. Assaults on power and police stations and a tourist bus also occurred, and in one incident Wednesday, gunmen hurled a hand grenade at a government office. One Jordanian protester was killed and 71 others — including 54 policemen — were wounded in 100 violent riots in the past two days, he said.

On Thursday, a national holiday for Islamic New Year, only six protests took place nationwide, a police statement said. In the southern town of Tafila, four policemen were wounded when a handful of gunmen fired at them as they stood outside the governor's office. The demonstrations also spread to the largest of Jordan's 13 camps that host Palestinian refugees, a population which had refrained from protests since the outset of the so-called Arab Spring uprisings. In Baqaa, just outside Amman, residents and police said some 400 young Palestinians pelted riot police with stones and burned tires to block streets, prompting

riot police to fire tear gas.

Jordan hosts 2 million Palestinian refugees and their descendants displaced in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Jamil Abu-Bakr, a leader from the Muslim Brotherhood — which is spearheading the opposition to the price hikes and the ruling system in general — said his group will continue staging street protests until the government's decision is revoked. He said the next demonstration is scheduled for Friday in Amman and a general strike is planned for Sunday. The opposition, which also includes Arab nationalists, communists and the largely secular Hirk movement of mostly young Jordanians, has seized on popular anger over the government's decision Tuesday to raise prices for cooking and heating gas by 54 percent in a bid to woo more of the population into its camp.

The government has defended the price hikes, saying they are necessary to reduce a massive budget deficit, part of Jordan's efforts to secure a badly needed \$2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to shore up the kingdom's shaky finances. □

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Region's financial crisis drags EU back into recession

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) —

The 17-country eurozone has fallen back into recession for the first time in three years as the fallout from the region's financial crisis was felt from Amsterdam to Athens.

And with surveys pointing to increasingly depressed conditions across the 17-member group at a time of austerity and high unemployment, the recession is forecast to deepen, and make the debt crisis — which has been calmer of late — even more difficult to handle.

Official figures Thursday showed that the eurozone contracted by 0.1 percent in the July to September period from the quarter before as economies including Germany and the Netherlands suffer from falling demand.

The decline reported by Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, was in line with market expectations and follows on from the 0.2 percent fall recorded in the second quarter. As a result, the eurozone is technically in recession, commonly defined as two straight quarters of falling output.

The eurozone economy shrank at annual rate of 0.2 percent during the July-September quarter, according to calculations by Capital Economics.

"The eurozone economy will continue its decline in Q4 and probably well into 2013 too — a good backdrop for another debt crisis," said Michael Taylor, an economist at Lombard Street Research.

Because of the eurozone's grueling three-year debt crisis, the region has been the major focus of concern for the world economy. The eurozone economy is worth around €9.5 trillion, or \$12.1

trillion, which puts it on a par with the U.S. The region, with its 332 million people, is the U.S.'s largest export customer, and any fall-off in demand will hit order books.

While the U.S. has managed to bounce back from its own recession in 2008-09, albeit inconsistently, and China continues to post strong growth, Europe's economies have been on a downward spiral — and there is little sign of any improvement in the near-term. Last week, the European Union's executive arm forecast the eurozone's economy would shrink 0.4 percent this year. Then only a meager 0.1 percent growth in 2013.

The eurozone had avoided returning to recession since the financial crisis following the collapse of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers, mainly thanks to the strength of its largest single economy, Germany.

But even that country is now struggling as exports drain in light of the economic problems afflicting

large chunks of the eurozone.

Germany's economy grew 0.2 percent in the third quarter, down from a 0.3



European Central bank President Mario Draghi, left, and Italian premier Mario Monti attend the opening ceremony of the academic year of the Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. The 17-country eurozone has fallen back into recession for the first time in three years as the fallout from the region's financial crisis was felt from Amsterdam to Athens.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

percent increase in the previous quarter. Over the past year, Germany's annual growth rate has more than halved to 0.9 percent from 1.9 percent.

Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel, tried to strike

a positive note when she spoke to reporters in Berlin Thursday.

"I think we all are working on getting back on our feet

our political homework ... we will again have growth after this small decline."

Perhaps the most dramatic decline among the eurozone's members was seen in the Netherlands, which has imposed strict austerity measures. Its economy shrank 1.1 percent on the previous quarter.

Five eurozone countries are in recession — Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Cyprus. Those five are also at the center of Europe's debt crisis and are imposing austerity measures, such as cuts to wages and pensions and increases to taxes, in an attempt to stay afloat.

As well as hitting workers' incomes and living standards, these measures have also led to a decline in economic output and a sharp increase in unemployment.

Spain and Greece have unemployment rates of over 25 percent. Their young people are faring even worse with every other person out of work. □



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In China, Xi Jinping offers few hints of a shift

IAN JOHNSON

© 2012 New York Times

BEIJING — China's new leader, Xi Jinping, impressed many people with a plain-spoken promise to address problems in the country's ruling party on Thursday, but his new leadership team offered few clues as to a clear shift in direction.

Xi, who formally took over from Hu Jintao as general secretary of the Communist Party on Thursday, was presented to foreign and domestic reporters after a highly scripted party congress intended mainly to laud the work of Hu and set very broad priorities for Xi's tenure.

According to tradition, Xi appeared onstage the day after the congress ended with other members of the party's Politburo Standing Committee, the seven-member body that effectively runs China.

Xi then gave a speech on live television that avoided most of the slogans that characterized Hu's recent addresses. In fact, he did not mention Hu or any of



New Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping smiles as the new members of the Politburo Standing Committee applaud in Beijing's Great Hall of the People Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. The seven member Standing Committee, the inner circle of Chinese political power, was paraded in front of assembled media on the first day following the end of the 18th Communist Party Congress.

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

his predecessors, instead calling on the party to fight corruption and promising to continue China's "rejuvenation."

"Inside the party, there are many problems that need to be addressed, especially the problems among party members and officials of corruption and taking bribes, being out of touch with the people, undue emphasis on formalities and bureaucracy and other issues," Xi said.

He also pledged to improve citizens' lives, including offering "better schooling, more stable jobs, more satisfying incomes, more reliable social security, higher levels of health care, more comfortable housing conditions and a more beautiful environment," so they can "look forward to their children growing up in better circumstances, finding better work and living in better conditions."

"People's striving for a better life is the goal we are struggling for," he added. Reflecting his upbringing as the son of a high-ranking official in Beijing, Xi spoke

in clear Mandarin Chinese, making him one of the first modern Chinese leaders whose speech does not bear the heavy accents of an upbringing in one of China's provinces.

Xi takes office with more titular authority than any Chinese leader in history. He will now be the chief of the ruling Communist Party and will take over sooner than expected from Hu as the chairman of the Central Military Commission, the top overseer of China's armed forces. Next spring, he will assume the position of state president. Other leaders in the post-Mao era have had more staggered transitions into the top posts.

Even so, Xi will have to contend with numerous other well-connected princelings, or sons and daughters of influential past leaders, and a factionalized Communist Party that tends to operate by consensus rather than strongman rule. He is unlikely to have the sweeping authority of Mao Zedong or Deng Xiaoping. □

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Clearer abortion law demanded in Ireland after death

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Pressure mounted Thursday for the Irish government to draft a law spelling out when life-saving abortions can be performed — a demand that came after a pregnant woman who was denied an abortion died.

Activists protested Thursday night in Belfast a day after thousands rallied in London, Dublin, Cork and Galway in memory of Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year-old dentist who died a week after doctors said she was starting to miscarry her 17-week-old fetus.

Despite her rising pain, doctors refused her request for an abortion for three days because the fetus had a heartbeat. She died in the hospital from blood poisoning three days after the fetus died and was surgically removed.

Irish gynecologists demanded Thursday that the government close a 20-year-old hole in the country's abortion law that leaves them fearing prosecution if they abort a fetus to protect a woman's life. "We would like to be able to practice medicine in a safe environment legal-

ly. The current situation is like a sword of Damocles hanging over us," Dr. Peter Boylan of the Irish Institute of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said Thursday.

"If we do something with a good intention, but it turns out to be illegal, the con-

lines Thursday accused Ireland of committing a murder. Halappanavar's husband and parents gave a string of interviews expressing incomprehension that Ireland — a country boasting one of the world's lowest maternal mortality rates



A woman holds a picture of Savita Halappanavar during a candle lit vigil outside Belfast City Hall, Northern Ireland, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. The parents of the Indian woman who suffered a miscarriage and died after being refused an abortion in an Irish hospital slammed Ireland's abortion laws Thursday. (AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

sequences are extremely serious for medical practitioners."

Halappanavar died Oct. 28 but her husband went public with the situation this week after taking his wife's body back home to India for cremation.

In India, newspaper head-

— could have handled her emergency so poorly.

"In an attempt to save a 4-month-old fetus they killed my 30-year-old daughter. How is that fair, you tell me?" her mother, A. Mahadevi, told Indian television.

Some of Ireland's leading

experts on maternal care said they long had feared that a death like Halappanavar's would happen — not because doctors don't want to save the lives of their patients, but because Irish law on abortion makes them fearful of taking action on borderline cases.

In parliament, hours after 2,000 citizens outside the gates held a candlelit vigil demanding reforms in Ire-

land's prohibitive abortion laws, Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore said the government would act "to bring legal clarity to this issue as quickly as possible." That would mean a law, or Health Department regulations, spelling out the precise medical circumstances when a doctor can abort a fetus in a country that officially bans the practice except to save the life of the mother. □

After suicides:

Spain halts evictions for the needy

ALAN CLENDENNING

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain approved a two-year suspension of evictions Thursday for some needy homeowners unable to pay their mortgages, but activists said the government failed to address the larger issue of how those who give up their homes may still remain indebted, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

Evictions have suddenly become one of the most sensitive topics in Spain's financial drama, and government officials acted less than a week after a Spanish woman facing eviction killed herself by jumping from an apartment balcony. They are trying reverse or at least delay a trend that has seen more than 371,000 mortgage eviction orders issued since the financial crisis hit the country in 2008.

The government, which is still preparing a broader overhaul of the country's mortgage and property laws, said it hoped to shield those most in need by suspending mortgage payments for mortgage holders

with annual income of €14,400 (\$18,400) or less after taxes, or those with expired unemployment benefits.

"We must avoid families ending up in the street as a consequence of the crisis," Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told reporters. "What we're trying to do here is make sure nobody ends up without their house."

But the government tacked on conditions for those wanting an eviction suspension. To qualify, they must have more than three children, or have children under the age of three, or be elderly, or have disabled people in the household, or be single parents with two children, or be victims of domestic violence.

They can stay in their homes for two years without paying their mortgages, but it's unclear what will happen after that if they have still been unable to find work in a country where unemployment stands at 25 percent and is expected to rise significantly next year.

Part of the problem is that mortgage laws in Spain are particularly harsh. □

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France mulling sending weapons to Syria's rebels

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France raised the possibility Thursday of sending "defensive weapons" to Syria's rebels, but Russia warned that such a move would violate international law.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said his country will ask the European Union to consider lifting the Syrian arms embargo, which prevents weapons from being sent to either side.

"We must not militarize the conflict ... but it's obviously unacceptable that there are liberated zones and they're bombed" by President Bashar Assad's regime, Fabius said in an interview with RTL radio. "We have to find a good bal-

ance."

The civil war in Syria, which began as an uprising against Assad's regime, has killed more than 36,000

Syrians since March 2011, according to anti-government activists. The fighting and flood of refugees seeking safety have also spilled

over into several of Syria's neighbors, including Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

The fighting has descended into a bloody stalemate, and rebels say they desperately need weapons to turn the tide.

"The question of defensive arms will be raised," Fabius said, without providing details about what such arms would be.

"This cannot be done without coordination between Europeans."

The topic of Syria is sure to be on the agenda at the EU foreign ministers meeting Monday in Brussels.

France has taken a leading role among Western countries in supporting Syria's rebels. On Tuesday, it be-

came the first Western nation to formally recognize Syria's newly formed opposition coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

On Saturday, the president of the new opposition coalition, the 52-year-old preacher-turned activist Mouaz al-Khatib, is to visit Paris and meet with President Francois Hollande. Al-Khatib is scheduled to hold talks a day earlier in London with British officials, who have said they will urge the opposition to set out a strategy to halt the conflict.

Syria's splintered rebel factions agreed to a U.S.-backed plan to unite last weekend under the new umbrella group, which seeks a common voice and strategy against the regime.

A French diplomatic official said Thursday that Paris sees quick recognition as a primary way to assure success for the opposition.

"There won't be many other occasions like this," said the official who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter and asked not to be named. "We have a collective responsibility, to the Syrians and ourselves, to make this live."

Turkey, which shares a long border with Syria and is a major backer of the opposition, followed suit on Thursday, with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu saying Ankara recognized the Syrian National Coalition as "the only legal representative" of Syria, the Anadolu news agency reported.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council already has recognized the new broad-based Syrian opposition group. □



A Syrian rebel fighter aims at Syrian government forces during skirmishes in Aleppo, Syria.

(AP Photo/Narciso Contreras)

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Prime Minister Eman opens Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event

Prime minister Mike Eman, Minister of Sports Richard Visser and Chairman of the House of Representatives Paul Croes stood on the stage of the 2012 edition of the Aruba International Beach Tennis Event last Wednesday evening, graciously welcoming the participants from the various countries to the enormous happening that is taking place from November 15 - 19. Mr. Visser added that on World Diabetes Day it was important to emphasize the importance of exercise and that beach tennis best showcases Aruba in all its glory.

Eagle Beach has been transformed into a Beach Tennis valhalla for the 600 local and international participants, who started playing their single matches yesterday. By Wednesday evening, organizers Sjoerd de Vries, Marc Kiezenbrink



and Jochem Ros had everything set up and under control; the site is truly amazing, with its arena, tents and bars. The 23 courts are ready for action! As participants greeted each other with joy, the

prime minister proceeded to perform the draw for the professional players, most of them with an ITF (International Tennis Federation) World Ranking. Cries rang out when the names were read. Mr.

Eman did very well indeed! Photos show the large and happy Beach Tennis family gathered at Eagle Beach listening to the speeches of the dignitaries and of Mr. Alex Nieuwmeijer, Divi Resorts gm, at the official

opening of the \$ 15,000.--exciting Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event, which will be a fantastic mix of live music, dj's and out-of-this-world beach tennis. Come and watch! □



El Gaucho Argentine Grill

Previews Renovated Caminito Dining Room to Press Members

Oranjestad – El Gaucho Argentine Grill recently introduced its renovated Caminito dining room to members of the press who were impressed with the unique décor and refreshed look of the restaurant's heart of the house.

Caminito, a charming Buenos Aires neighborhood, known for its bohemian and picturesque artist ateliers, wine bars and Tango clubs, comes alive in Aruba at El Gaucho Argentine Grill with original painting by Silvio Bufalini.

The restaurant flaunts real cow hide seats to complement the intimate booths, and also enjoys many new artistic accents and features. Press members were enter-



tained over delicious Land & Sea Picada for lunch, with white and red sangria, to live strolling guitar music, topped off by El Gau-

cho's signature trio dessert. Compliments to staff and management on a job well done, just in time for the high season!! □



Grand Café Rembrandt re-opens its doors under new ownership



ORANJESTAD: Grand Café Rembrandt located at the South Beach Centre officially re-opened its doors to the public under new ownership and management recently.

Rembrandt celebrated this occasion with a two-night celebration featuring live music on over the weekend. On Friday the celebration started with the famous Dushi Band, followed on Saturday by Mystical Connection. The café

was packed with a good mix of enthusiastic people including former customers of the café. The "new" Rembrandt will be open for lunch and dinner and will feature a completely new menu for its guests. Arubahuis and Arina are especially proud in having been able to facilitate the new owner in setting up this restaurant and would like to congratulate them and wish them the best of luck with this new venture. □

Beauty on the Beach

Dina Bajrak

From New Jersey, It is her first time in Aruba, she is staying at Tamarijn Beach Resort. She loves the beach and the water.



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**At the Casino at the Radisson:
Ten days of games, seminars
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PALM BEACH – The Aruba Poker Open was kicked off Friday, November 9th, at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, opening ten days of intense poker games, seminars and cocktail parties hosted by poker legends Bonnie Leinhos and Tom McEvoy. Poker players from around the world will be duking it out for large cash prizes and their chance to sit at one of the tables during the Championship games, which begins on Saturday, November 17th. Leinhos and McEvoy report Single Table Satellite Games were planned every day during the 10 day program, starting at 6pm, including No Limit Games,

the Sam Rothnagel No Limit Classic named after the late Rothnagel with a special chip box at trophy, Pot Limit Omaha, No Limit Ladies Game, and Last Chance Poker, followed by a cocktail party and an award ceremony, on Monday, November 19th. Those looking to improve their game, or simply learn from the best, are invited to attend seminars hosted by Poker World Champion and author Tom McEvoy. McEvoy will give a Poker Lab & Questions today, Friday, November 16th. For more information about the Aruba Poker Open and a complete schedule of activities, visit www.arubapokeropen.com. □



**The official start of Cas di Glas 2012:
Flora's Santa Claus Caminata!**

Picture this: five hundred people, all dressed in Santa Claus costumes, walking past the Cas di Glas at Palm Beach Plaza, waving at the deejays that have been locked inside and proceeding to walk along the boulevard, past the hotels, doubling back along the beach, stunning the watching crowds in the process. That is what the official start of Cas di Glas, called Flora's Santa Claus Caminata, will look like. Flora, always generously supportive of charities on the island, has

taken care of getting the 500 Santa costumes – Idrefre has joyfully joined the effort and will take care of the proceedings on the road. The caminata will be a never-before-witnessed event. The costumes are for sale at Flora in the Avenida Milo Croes during business hours; they cost AWG. 25 each. Santa's costume allows you to participate in the walk as well. This amount will go directly to the projects for the elderly of the Wit Gele Kruis, the charity of Cas di Glas 2012. □



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“ Hats Off to the Man of The Week!”

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Grand Opening of Super Food Plaza!

Grand opening of Super Food Plaza will be Tuesday, November 20th 2012. Super Food Plaza is situated in Bubali 141-A. They began their construction during the month of June 2011. The demand of a new and improved building with a larger range of products came after Aruba made Super Food their preferred Supermarket and the current building became too small to accommodate all customers.

Aruba, a small island, is taking giant steps towards Green Environment. With this concept in mind, Super Food Plaza constructed their new, modern & green building. The roof consist of two parts. The umbrella part, which maintains the shadow and gives an effect of a cool air temperature inside the building, and the second part, is the actual roof of the building. Solar panels on the roof tops will also be placed soon, which also absorbs energy. More aspects of the build-

ing that reduces the use of energy, is a good isolation. All doors and windows of the building are double glazed. The idea behind double glazing is that the double panes of glass, plus the intermediate buffer zone, provide a better barrier against outside temperatures than single paned windows and doors.

Also a new environmental system that Super Food Plaza has is the system that accumulates the moisture in the air and turn this into 500 liter water per day, which will assemble under the building. This is connected with the sprinkler and will also be used to flush toilets, watering plants and for the fountain. Last but not least, the building uses LED lights and sensors that automatically turn lights on and off. Super Food Plaza is now more accessible, has adequate parking, and has a larger range of products which will make shopping more comfortable and enjoyable in an energy-



saving environment. Super Food Plaza has more than only the supermarket Super Food. There is Bliss which is a drugstore, Jack's Café Aruba, which is a casual restaurant and Cheers with its wide assortment of alcohol products.

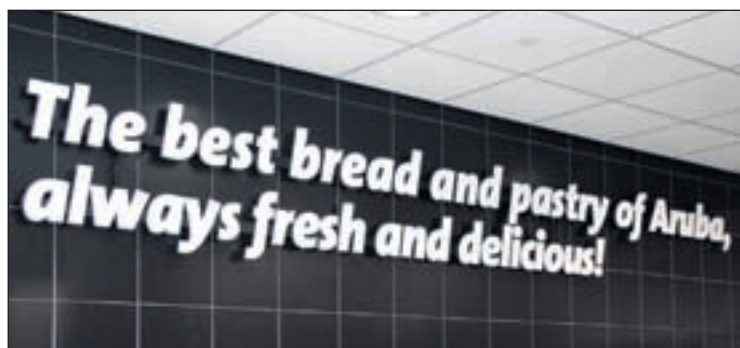
On the second floor, customers can also enjoy their shopping experience at Casa, which offers differ-

ent kinds of home products. Intertoys, which is an brand very well known in Aruba for children toys and a new concept in Aruba, Food Factory, which is a studio where you can learn to cook or you can rent this space for meetings or party's.

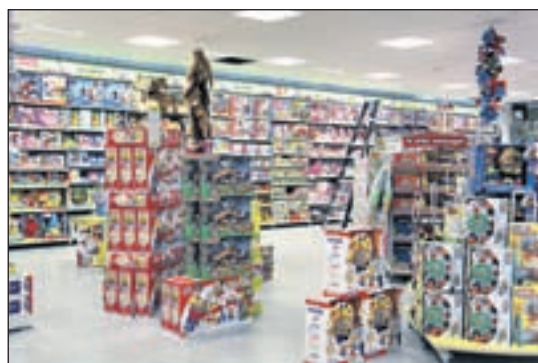
Outside of the building there is also a large number of different stores available

and they are ready to give all our demanding customers the best service. There is: Optica Sun Specs, Daily Fish, Aruba Bank, Coldwell Banker, Visser Pharmacy and Cellular Xpress. They will open soon during coming up weeks or months.

The new Super Food Plaza is something unique here in Aruba and in the Caribbean. We want to invite Aruba to visit us and enjoy your shopping experience where there is everything available for the whole family! On top of it, get special discounts on different products with your Bonus Card at Super Food and in also more stores situated at Super Food Plaza. See you soon! □



Marketing Manager Rudy Richardson



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Even phone calls stop between NHL and union



National Hockey League Players' Association executive director Donald Fehr arrives for talks with the NHL, Friday, Nov. 9, 2012, in New York.

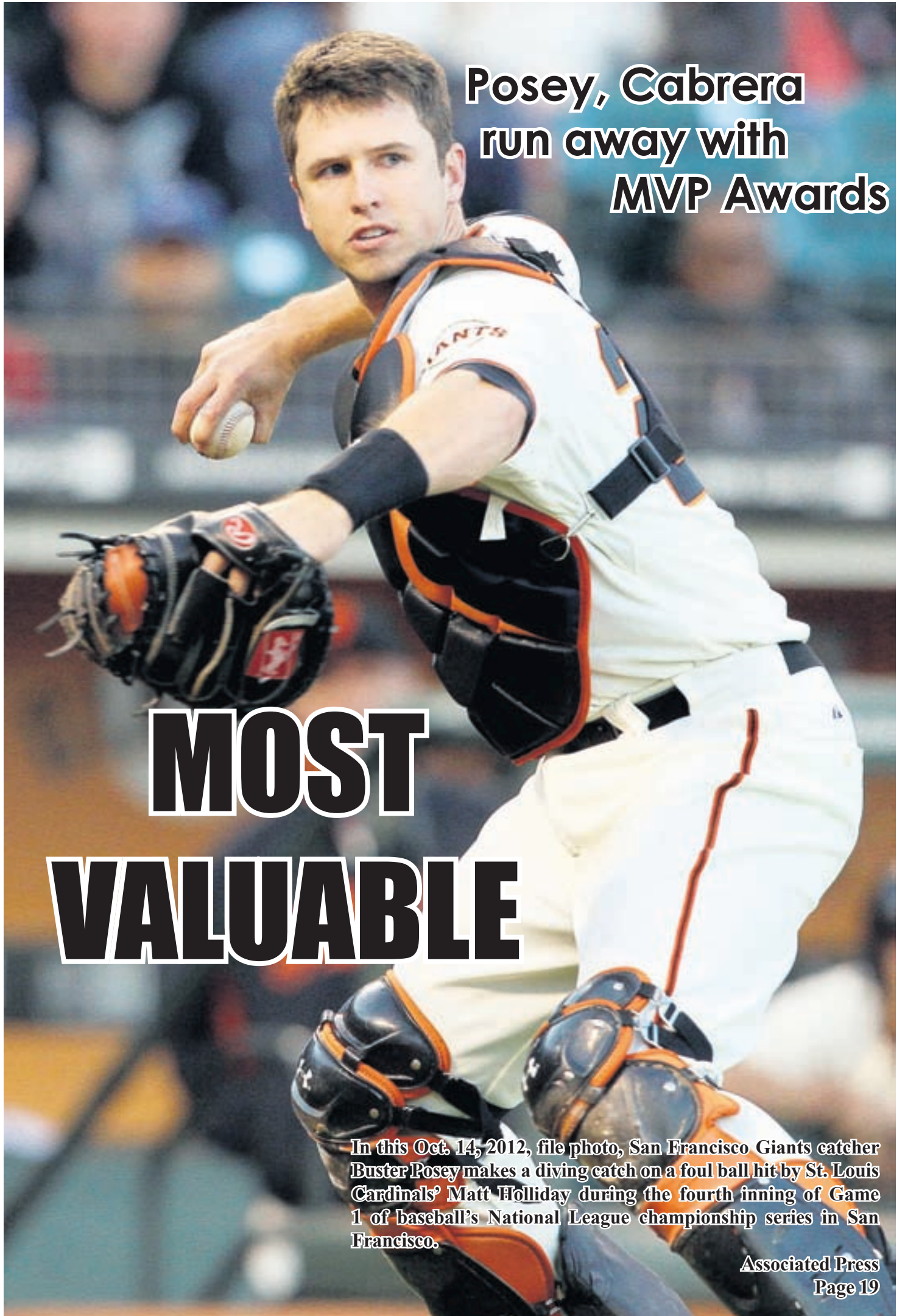
Associated Press

By IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- Now the NHL and the locked-out players' association aren't even talking by phone. With the lockout about to enter its third month, communications between the fighting sides have come to a halt with no clear sign of what the next step will be or when it will be taken. "No, we have not communicated today," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly told The Associated Press on Wednesday in an email. "No meetings scheduled, and no plans to meet." After four straight days of negotiations in New York last week, talks broke off angrily Friday night. Discussions resumed on Sunday, solely regarding player contract terms, but that meeting ended after only 90 minutes. The union contends that the NHL doesn't want to get back together yet.

Continued on Page 20

Posey, Cabrera run away with MVP Awards



MOST VALUABLE

In this Oct. 14, 2012, file photo, San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey makes a diving catch on a foul ball hit by St. Louis Cardinals' Matt Holliday during the fourth inning of Game 1 of baseball's National League championship series in San Francisco.

Associated Press
Page 19

Miller won't hurry back from left knee injury

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

COPPER MOUNTAIN, Colorado (AP) — Whether it's in life or on the slopes, Bode Miller charges after what he wants at a breathless speed.

The U.S. skier simply doesn't do slow.

On the course, that go-for-broke approach has served him quite well — 33 World Cup wins, two overall titles and five Olympic medals.

Off it, too: He met pro volleyball player Morgan Beck in May and five months later they were married in a private ceremony on his boat. He also fancied owning a racehorse and recently partnered with Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert's wife to purchase a 2-year-old colt.

But now comes the difficult part: Slowing down for a bit. Miller is coming off a major knee injury and it's taking time to get back to full speed. Maybe years ago, when Miller was much more impatient and



This Feb. 3, 2012 file photo shows Bode Miller smiling on the podium after finishing second in a World Cup downhill event in Chamonix, France. Whether it's in life or on the slopes, Olympic and world champion skier Miller charges after what he wants at a breathless speed.

Associated Press

racing meant just about everything to him, he might have gambled and returned before he was ready.

Not at 35, though, and in the twilight of his career. He insisted he's in no rush to click back into his skis and compete. If he has to miss a few races to allow the left knee to heal after microfracture surgery just nine months ago, so be it.

"There's no gain to come back and race a few races and get away with it a few times and then screw up my knee and have to retire," Miller said.

He's definitely out for the World Cup stop in Lake Louise, Alberta, next weekend. And he probably won't be ready to race in Beaver Creek, Colorado, either, even though he is the defending

downhill champion on the demanding Birds of Prey course.

Ask him when he hopes to return and he'll just smirk.

"Hope doesn't play much part in it. You can hope for a (winning) Megabucks ticket, or hope for anything else," said Miller, who was scheduled to attend the U.S. Ski Team's introduction ceremony Thursday night in Vail. "The fact is it's an injury that takes a long time to heal. If you come back too soon, you really do risk undoing the surgery and putting yourself back to square one."

Miller's knee first began bothering him last winter when he was competing on an icy slope in Sochi, Russia, a test run for the 2014 Winter Games.

He tried to ski through the pain and then decided to return to the U.S. to get his knee examined, which led to surgery.

When the knee still wouldn't cooperate, he opted for microfracture surgery, a procedure teammate Will Brandenburg had

performed in January 2009. Brandenburg's advice? Take rehab slow.

"In the long run, that's going to pay off," Brandenburg said. "He's at a point where he can take his time, make sure it's perfectly right. It's going to be better than it was."

Miller's banking on that. While the doctors were fixing his knee, they also mended a cartilage issue that's hampered him since a crash in 2001.

"That (injury) has been a real pain the last 12 years, shaping the way I train and ski," Miller said. "If I can have healthy knees out of this, it opens the door for a whole bunch of things."

The knee already is feeling better. He recently skied in Soelden, Austria, and was able to keep up with his company.

"The speed was fine," Miller said. "But I want to make sure I do the most thorough job of getting it to heal as I can, to get the best possible result."

"I really don't feel the need to risk it right now." □

Diskerd goal gives US 2-2 tie at Russia

By The Associated Press
Mix Diskerd gave the U.S. soccer a team a thrilling end to 2012.

Playing just his third game for the Americans, the 22-year-old midfielder scored his first international goal on a 20-yard shot 2:50 into four minutes of injury time, giving the United States a 2-2 tie against Russia on Wednesday in an exhibition game at Krasnodar. Michael Bradley, who scored in the 76th minute, sent a long ball into the penalty area toward Terrence Boyd.

Defender Sergei Ignashevich tied to clear the ball but his header went on one hop to Diskerd. His right-footed shot took a bounce and spin in off the left hand of goalkeeper Vladimir Gabulov. "It was a long ball and I was hoping with all my heart that it would come back to me and it

did," Diskerd said. "I got a nice strike."

Diskerd's whose mother is from Arizona and whose father is from Norway, was a member of the American under-23 team that failed to qualify for the London Olympics.

"We can compete with very good teams in the world," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "The way our team fought back twice after being down a goal was great. It showed a lot of personality. It showed a lot of character. This is a young team, and a team that is growing."

Fedor Smolov, making his Russian national team debut, gave the hosts the lead in the ninth minute following a giveaway by Danny Williams, who mis-hit the ball trying for a quick free kick in his own half.

Bradley tied it on a 19-yard volley, his 11th international goal. Maurice Edu passed to Juan Agudelo in the

penalty area, and Agudelo headed the ball back to an open Bradley for a right-footed shot that clanked in off the post to Gabulov's right. "I caught it perfect," Bradley said.

Roman Shirokov put Russia back ahead 2-1 when he converted a penalty kick in the 84th minute after a foul by Clarence Goodson, who pushed over Artem Dzyuba in front of goalkeeper Tim Howard following a free kick.

"I think we came in at halftime frustrated with ourselves," Bradley said.

The 27th-ranked United States, missing regulars Clint Dempsey, Landon Donovan and Steve Cherundolo, are preparing for the final round of qualifying next year for the 2014 World Cup. They finished the year at 9-2-3 with a .750 winning percentage that tied their best in the modern era, set in 2005. □

Agnel sets world short course world record

ANGERS, France (AP) — Two-time Olympic gold medalist Yannick Agnel has set a short course world record in the 400-meter freestyle at the French swimming championships.

The Frenchman finished in 3 minutes, 32.25 seconds at the nationals in Angers on Thursday, beating German swimmer Paul Biedermann's previous mark of 3:32.77, which was set in 2009 with a high-tech bodysuit.

"This morning, I didn't think I'd set a world record. But I wanted to have fun and give everything I had," Agnel said.

"It's super. I've beaten a record set in a bodysuit. It shows there are still many good things to be done in terms of times."

The 20-year-old Agnel won the Olympic gold medal in the 200 freestyle and the 4x100 freestyle relay in London, as well as silver in the 4x200 freestyle relay.

Agnel shaved a massive 7.66 seconds off his previous best mark of 3:39.91 from 2010. □



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Miguel Cabrera, Buster Posey win MVP awards

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- Detroit's Miguel Cabrera won the American League's Most Valuable Player award on Thursday after becoming baseball's first Triple Crown winner in 45 years, and San Francisco's Buster Posey was voted the National League honor.

Cabrera received 22 of 28 first-place votes and 362 points from the AL panel

of Baseball Writers' Association of America to easily beat out Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, who had six firsts and 281 points. Trout was voted AL Rookie of the Year earlier in the week.

Posey recovered from a devastating leg injury that cut short his 2011 season, became the first catcher in 70 years to win the NL batting title and helped San Francisco win its second

World Series title in three seasons. He got 27 of 32 firsts and 422 points from the NL panel, outdistancing 2011 winner Ryan Braun of Milwaukee, who was second with 285 points.

Cabrera hit .330 with 44 homers and 139 RBIs to become the first Triple Crown winner since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski in 1967. The last four Triple Crown winners have been voted MVP, including Mickey Mantle in



In this Oct. 3, 2012, file photo, Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera (24) flies out to centerfield during the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

Scott Stallings leads Pebble Beach Invitational

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — Scott Stallings shot an 8-under 64 on Thursday at Del Monte to take a two-stroke lead over William McGirt and Kirk Triplett in the Pebble Beach Invitational. Stallings, the True South Classic winner in July for his second PGA Tour title, made eight putts inside 10 feet at the unofficial event that features PGA, LPGA, Champions

and Web.com tour players. "I had to grind it all day, but didn't have to do anything too severe," said Stallings, who made an 8-foot par putt on the 18th. "Last year, I didn't know where to hit the ball. I didn't know the course. This time around, I felt more relaxed." Stallings opened with a 76 last year, also at Del Monte, and ended up missing the cut. McGirt, who had three top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour this season including tie for second in the Canadian Open, had a bogey-free 66 at Del Monte. "I hit it pretty good, it was a solid day," McGirt said. "I had no bogeys and anytime who have no bogeys, it's a good day." Triplett had a 66 Pebble Beach to top the 11 Champions Tour entrants. He won the 50-and-over tour's First Tee Open at

Pebble Beach in July. John Malingier, the 2010 Pebble Beach Invitational winner who also had three top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour this season, had a 67, also at Del Monte. Champions Tour veteran Tom Purtzer was among five players at 68, with six others tied at 69, including 2011 U.S. Senior Open winner Olin Browne. Annika Sorenstam, the Hall of Famer who retired from the LPGA Tour in 2008 and is playing in the event for the second time in three years, shot a 70 at Del Monte — the lowest score among the seven female entrants. Defending tournament champion Harrison Frazar withdrew from event because of an undisclosed injury. The final round will be played at Pebble Beach. The winner will receive \$60,000 from the \$300,000 purse. □

1956 and Frank Robinson in 1966.

Cabrera also led the league with a .606 slugging percentage for the AL champion Tigers. He became the second straight Detroit player voted MVP, following Justin Verlander in 2011, and was the first Venezuelan to earn the honor. Before the season, he switched from first base to third to make way for Prince Fielder, signing as a free agent.

The 2010 NL Rookie of the Year, Posey set career highs with a .336 average, 24 homers and 103 RBIs for the World Series champion Giants.

His 2011 season was cut short by a collision with the Marlins' Scott Cousins on May 25 that resulted in a fractured bone in Posey's lower left leg and three torn ankle ligaments.

Posey, the fifth overall pick in the 2008 amateur draft, won the NL batting title after teammate Melky Ca-

brera requested a rules change that disqualified him. Cabrera, who hit .346, missed the final 45 games of the regular-season while serving a suspension for a positive testosterone test and would have won the batting crown if the rule hadn't been changed.

Ernie Lombardi had been the previous catcher to capture the NL batting championship, in 1942.

Catchers have won the NL MVP just eight times, with Posey joining Gabby Hartnett (1935), Lombardi (1938), Roy Campanella (1951, 1953, 1955) and Johnny Bench (1970, 1972). The other winning catchers were Lombardi in 1938 and Gabby Hartnett in 1935.

Posey is the first Giants player to win since Barry Bonds was voted his record seventh MVP award in 2004.

Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen (245) was third, followed by St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina (241). □



Championship Chase

Paul Wolfe initially said no to Keselowski's offer

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Crew chief Paul Wolfe wasn't interested in working with Brad Keselowski when the stock car driver first approached him about a potential pairing in 2009.

"I told him, 'Hey, man, I want you to come over and crew chief this deal,'" Keselowski said of the conversation. "He looked me in the eye and said, 'No, I don't want to do it.'"

Wolfe was content at CJM Racing, and had made a commitment to the team in NASCAR's second-tier Nationwide Series. And even if he were to leave, he wasn't sure he wanted to team with Keselowski, who had had some on-track incidents with Wolfe's driver.

"I think he was kind of mad at me because I had wrecked his car," Keselowski joked. A few months later, without Keselowski's knowledge, Penske Racing officials approached Wolfe about joining them. Keselowski told the team not to waste their time. So what changed?

Funding, for one. Wolfe had given CJM his word, but the team lost its funding at the end of 2009 and Wolfe needed a job. Keselowski moved full-time to Penske Racing in 2010, and was partnered with Wolfe in the Nationwide Series. They clicked instantly and won six races and the Nationwide title.

Keselowski, however, was flailing in NASCAR. He scored just two top-10s all year and finished 25th in points in 2010, and Wolfe was moved up to be his crew chief the next year. They hit their stride midsummer, winning three races to make the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, and finished fifth in the 2011 final standings.

Keselowski and Wolfe were rewarded in December with multiyear contract extensions, and find themselves poised to win their first NASCAR champion-



This Nov. 3, 2012 file photo shows crew chief Paul Wolfe, left, and a fellow crew member talking with Brad Keselowski, right, following a practice session for a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

ship on Sunday. They go into the season finale with a 20-point lead over five-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, needing only to finish 15th or better at Homestead-Miami Speedway to win the title. The win would be the first championship for Roger Penske, the most successful owner in IndyCar history who has never won NASCAR's top series in 29 years of trying.

Wolfe isn't getting too far ahead of himself. They have reached this point by following a plan.

Johnson's win at Martinsville pushed him passed Keselowski for the points lead, and his win the next week at Texas pushed his lead to seven points as the series headed last weekend to Phoenix, one of Johnson's best tracks. Wolfe kept his team focused and didn't let outside chatter rattle them.

"Everybody wanted to look at the stat books each and every week. We didn't always have the best stats, maybe," he said. "We've grown so much as a team

over the years. I think it's hard to look back at those things, and I think we've proven that throughout the Chase. We felt like we needed to go into Phoenix and win that race to put us in position to have a shot at it going into the final race." It was clear early at Phoenix that Keselowski had the better car, and as the weekend progressed, Johnson never caught up. It never rattled Wolfe, though, who could have tried to overanalyze the

situation or wonder if Johnson crew chief Chad Knaus was playing mind games with him.

"I was definitely caught off guard," Wolfe said. "I expected those guys to run much better than they did. It just seemed like they were never able to get it turned around all weekend. But we still went there and stuck to our plan and did what we needed to do."

Keselowski ran in the top 10 for almost the entire

race, and even passed Kyle Busch for the lead. Moments after doing so, a blown tire sent Johnson crashing into the wall and gave Keselowski the cushion he'll take into Homestead.

"Now we're in a much better situation than we could have planned for, or hoped for going into the final race," Wolfe said. "If we do the things we know we're capable of, I feel like we're going to be in good position."□

NHL

Continued from front

"The players remain prepared to resume negotiations at any time," NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr said. At this point, no decisions have been made to call off any more games, Daly said. So far, 327 games - all those scheduled through Nov. 30 and the New Year's Day outdoor Winter Classic - have been cancelled by the NHL. More could be coming soon if a deal isn't reached.

It is believed that an agreement would need to be in place by the end of next week for the season to get under way on Dec. 1.

That is starting to look unlikely because of the mere fact that the sides are unable to find common ground on the big issues keeping them apart. It is more than just finances preventing a deal. The disagreements over player contract terms have emerged as just big an impasse.

The NHL wants to limit contracts to five years, make

rules to prohibit back-diving contracts the league feels circumvent the salary cap, keep players ineligible for unrestricted free agency until they are 28 or have eight years of professional service time, cut entry-level deals to two years, and make salary arbitration after five years.

A few hours into last Friday's session, negotiations broke down over the core economic differences that separate the sides.

A lockout wiped out the entire 2004-05 season.□

NBA Roundup

Grizzlies beat Thunder for sixth straight win

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Rudy Gay scored a season-high 28 points and Zach Randolph added 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies extended their best start in team history by beating the Oklahoma City Thunder 107-97 on Wednesday.

Marc Gasol chipped in 14 points as the Grizzlies won their sixth straight game.

The Grizzlies outscored Oklahoma City by 21 in the second quarter to take control of a contentious game, which ended with Randolph and the Thunder's Kendrick Perkins being ejected following an altercation.

Kevin Durant scored a season-high 34 points and Russell Westbrook had 17 points and 13 assists as both Oklahoma City All-Stars logged more than 42 minutes for the second straight game while trying to lead a fourth-quarter comeback. This time it fell short as the Thunder had their five-game winning streak broken L.A. Clippers 107, Heat 100

In Los Angeles, the Clippers won their fourth straight game, beating the defending NBA champions, the Miami Heat, 107-100.

Blake Griffin had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Chris Paul had 16 points and 10 assists to lead five Clippers players in double figures.

Jamal Crawford added 22 points off the bench.

LeBron James scored 30 points for the Heat, who lost their fifth in a row against the Clippers in Los Angeles and dropped to 2-2 on their current six-game road trip. Dwyane Wade was held to six points — well below his 18.4 average — playing with a sprained left foot that kept him out of the morning shootaround.

Bulls 112, Suns 106, OT Carlos Boozer had 28 points and 14 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls dominated the Phoenix Suns in the paint and won in overtime, 112-106. Luol Deng added 21 points and center Joakim Noah had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls.

Luis Scola had 24 points and 14 rebounds and Sebastian Telfair scored 17 off the bench for the Suns, who fought back in the fourth after trailing by 18 points. Celtics 98, Jazz 93

At Boston, Paul Pierce hit two free throws with 19.5 seconds left to lift the Celtics past the Utah Jazz 98-93 for their fifth win in six games.

Jeff Green and Leandro Barbosa each scored 16 points for the Celtics, while Kevin Garnett added 11 points and eight rebounds. Boston guard Rajon Rondo had 10 assists before leaving the game for good in the third quarter with a right ankle injury. It was his 32nd

straight game with 10 or more assists.

Pistons 94, 76ers 76

In Philadelphia, Greg Monroe had 19 points, 18 rebounds and six assists to help the Detroit Pistons beat the 76ers 94-76 for their first win of the season.

Kyle Singler scored 16 points and Tayshaun Prince and Brandon Knight each had 15 for a Detroit team that is off to its worst start in franchise history with a 1-8 record. Bobcats 89, Timberwolves 87

The Charlotte Bobcats continued their surprising season with an 89-87 road win over the injury-plagued Minnesota Timberwolves.

Kemba Walker hit a 19-foot jumper over Alexey Shved in the final moments to give the Bobcats their first three-game winning streak since March 2011. Walker finished with 22 points.

Andrei Kirilenko had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the depleted Timberwolves, who were without six of their top seven players: Kevin Love (broken right hand), Ricky Rubio (left knee), Chase Budinger (left knee), Nikola Pekovic (left ankle), JJ Barea (left foot) and Brandon Roy (right knee).

Rockets 100, Jazz 96

In Houston, the Rockets built a 21-point lead in the first half and held on to beat the New Orleans Hornets 100-96. □



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) dunks as Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin defends during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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5-Hour Energy drink is cited in 13 death reports

BARRY MEIER

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Federal officials have received reports of 13 deaths over the last four years that cited the possible involvement of 5-Hour Energy, a highly caffeinated energy shot, according to Food and Drug Administration records and an interview with an agency official.

The disclosure of the reports is the second time in recent weeks that FDA filings citing energy drinks and deaths have emerged. Last month, the agency acknowledged it had received five fatality filings mentioning another popular energy drink, Monster Energy.

Since 2009, 5-Hour Energy has been mentioned in some 90 filings with the FDA, including more than 30 that involved serious or life-threatening injuries like heart attacks, convulsions

and, in one case, a spontaneous abortion, a summary of FDA records reviewed by The New York Times showed.

The filing of an incident report with the FDA does not mean that a product was responsible for a death or an injury or contributed in any way to it. Such reports can be fragmentary in nature and difficult to investigate.

The distributor of 5-Hour Energy, Living Essentials of Farmington Hills, Mich., did not respond to written questions about the filings, and its top executive declined to be interviewed. Living Essentials is a unit of the product's producer, Innovation Ventures.

However, in a statement, Living Essentials said that the product was safe when used as directed and that it was "unaware of any deaths proven to be



A 5-Hour Energy drink display at a convenience store, in College Park, Md. The high-caffeine energy drink has been cited as possibly being involved in 13 deaths, according to Food and Drug Administration records released in November 2012.

(Steve Ruark/The New York Times)

caused by the consumption of 5-Hour Energy."

Since the public disclosure of reports about Monster Energy, its producer, Monster Beverage of Corona, Calif., has repeatedly said that its products are safe,

adding that they were not the cause of any of the health problems reported to the FDA.

Shares of Monster Beverage, which traded above \$80 earlier this year, closed Wednesday at \$44.74.

The fast-growing energy drink industry is facing increasing scrutiny over issues like labeling disclosures and possible health risks. Some lawmakers are calling on the FDA to increase its regulation of the products and the New York state attorney general is investigating the practices of several producers.

Unlike Red Bull, Monster Energy and some other energy drinks that look like beverages, 5-Hour Energy is sold in a 2-ounce bottle referred to as a shot. The company does not disclose the amount of caffeine in each bottle, but a recent article published by Consumer Reports placed that level at about 215 milligrams.

An 8-ounce cup of coffee, depending on how it is made, can contain from 100 to 150 milligrams of caffeine. □

New wristbands help keep tabs on your fitness

DAVID POGUE

© 2012 New York Times

Maybe you've heard: Americans are becoming less fit and more fat. There are all kinds of theories about why – bigger meal portions, omnipresent corn syrup and sugar, fewer pickup stickball games after school. But people are starting to think that in many cases, body weight might somehow be linked to diet and exercise.

Now, studies have shown that if there's some visible, omnipresent monitor of your negative behavior – spending too much money, eating too much food, using too much power in your home – you're far more likely to correct it.

That's the idea behind personal activity-tracking bracelets like the Nike FuelBand (\$150) and the improved Jawbone Up band (\$130). They make you constantly aware of how active you are (or aren't). They let you compare your data with friends online, establishing a friendly rivalry or at least guilt. And they

therefore motivate you to make changes that add up: park farther away, take the stairs, get off one bus stop early.

There are plenty of other fitness trackers, including

the beauty of the bracelets is that you can leave them on – asleep, in the shower, shirtless or even all three – and so you're more likely to stick with the program.

Now, those who follow the



Nike's FuelBand, which have a built-in screen, in an undated handout photo. Jawbone and Nike are introducing new wearable, accelerometer-based fitness-tracking bands.

(Handout via The New York Times)

clip-onto-clothing trackers (like the FitBit and Striiv) and wristwatchlike gadgets (like Motorola's MotoActiv). But

wearable, accelerometer-based fitness-tracking gadget industry are no doubt scratching their heads right

about now. The Up band? Wasn't that a bracelet that came out about a year ago, and crashed and burned in a humiliatingly public epidemic of hardware failures? Didn't Jawbone, a company known for Bluetooth speakers and earpieces, pull Up off the market, offering a generous mea culpa ("You can receive a full refund for UP. This is true even if you decide to keep your UP band")? Yes. The new Up band, the company swears, is bulletproof. Or at least really, truly waterproof. The company says it redesigned 17 parts and made 28 improvements in the manufacturing process. The new band looks identical – it's still a stiff, rubber, overgrown C in a choice of colors, with ends that overshoot each other – but inside, it's far better shielded and enclosed. (It's also \$30 more expensive.)

You can track your food intake in any of three ways: by taking a photo of what you eat, by scanning the bar code on its package

(the app instantly and correctly identifies it) or by choosing from a categorized list of common foodstuffs. It's still fairly manual – no wristband can tell what you're shoving into your mouth – so most people probably won't bother.

Despite all of these improvements, Jawbone hasn't fixed the monolithic conceptual flaw of its first incarnation: to transfer your collected data from the band to the iPhone, you still have to take it off your wrist, pull the cap off its end (it's roughly the size of a carbon atom), insert the newly exposed pin into the iPhone's headphone jack, open the app so that it can sync, and then put everything back together again. If you haven't lost that cap after three weeks, consider a career in nanotechnology. Jawbone insists that the screamingly obvious solution to this syncing problem – Bluetooth wireless capability – is too complicated and requires components that are too big for a wristband. □

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RIM offers free voice calls over Wi-Fi with BBM

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press
TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry users will be able to make free voice calls over a Wi-Fi network using the popular BBM messaging service. Research In Motion Ltd. announced Wednesday that it's adding the feature to BBM. Users will be able to switch back and forth from a text chat to a voice call. A split-screen option will let them talk and text at the same time. The new feature is a free update for existing customers and comes months before RIM introduces its new BlackBerry 10 smartphones, which are seen critical to RIM's survival. RIM surprised analysts in

September when it announced that the number of BlackBerry subscribers grew, thanks in part to emerging markets and its popular BBM service. It's struggling in North America as customers migrate to flashier iPhones and Android phone. RIM stopped short of offering the BBM voice feature over wireless carriers' own cellular networks. Doing so would have potentially created more congestion on cellular data networks and deprive carriers of revenue for voice calls. With the new feature, the free calls are limited to times and places where Wi-Fi is available. The Canadian company said the BBM voice feature

is especially attractive for developing markets. Unlike regular texts, BBM messages are not charged on a per-text basis. Although RIM is struggling in North America, the BlackBerry continues to sell well in such markets as South Africa, Nigeria and Indonesia. The BBM service has long been a reason for BlackBerry users to not defect to other smartphones but there are rival messaging services. There are more than 60 million BBM users worldwide. RIM said the BBM voice update is currently available for BlackBerry smartphones running the BlackBerry 6 operating system or higher, with plans for BlackBerry 5 later. □



In this Oct. 12, 2011, file photo, A Blackberry subscriber holds a Research in Motion Blackberry in Ottawa. Associated Press

Solar cars roll across Earth's driest desert

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The second annual Solar Challenge has begun in Chile's Atacama desert, where 15 solar-powered cars rolled out of an old salt mine Thursday. The solar-powered prototypes will travel more than 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) through the world's driest desert in the four-day, multinational race. There are two categories: cars powered only by solar energy, and three-wheeled models that get a little help from pedals pushed by the drivers themselves. The cars had to be built for less than \$7,000, forcing their makers to be creative more than wealthy. Most



In this photo released by Carrera Solar Atacama 2012, a driver sits in his solar powered car from the team Condor 2 Mining Parts at the start of the first phase of a race, in Humberstone in the area of Pozo Almonte, Chile, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012.

Associated Press

of the teams represent university engineering departments. The big finish comes Mon-

day, and the winners get prizes of \$30,000 in the solar category and \$9,000 in the hybrid category. □



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Stocks slump on retail reports, unemployment

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock indexes closed lower Thursday, a third straight decline, after U.S. retailers issued weak forecasts for earnings and more people filed claims for unemployment benefits. Wal-Mart, Ross Stores and Limited Brands, the owner of Victoria's Secret, all fell after issuing forecasts that disappointed financial analysts. Wal-Mart fell \$2.59, or 3.6 percent, to \$68.72. The Dow Jones industrial average wavered between small gains and losses shortly after the opening bell, then moved lower at midmorning. It closed down 28.57 points, or 0.2 percent, at 12,542.38. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 2.17 points to 1,353.32 and the Nasdaq composite finished 9.87 points lower at 2,836.94. Stocks have fallen steadily since voters returned President Barack Obama and a divided Congress to power. The Dow has lost 5 percent from Election Day, Nov. 6.

Investors are worried that U.S. leaders may not reach a deal before tax increases and government spending cuts take effect Jan. 1. The impact would total \$700 billion for 2013 and could send the country back into recession.

Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management Group in Philadelphia, said the bargaining in Washington would likely drag on until next year, weighing on stocks. "It's hard to see the market getting a whole ton of traction until that gets settled."

Obama will meet with congressional leaders Friday to talk about the budget, but he appeared to suggest Thursday that he would insist on an increase in tax rates for the wealthy.

T. Dale, a portfolio manager at Security Balley Wealth Management in Jackson, Mississippi, said that stocks are more likely to fall than rise, partly because of slowing global economic growth and the U.S. budget impasse.

"The market has gotten well ahead of itself," Dale said. Superstorm Sandy drove the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits up to 439,000 last week, the

Labor Department reported. Applications for benefits rose 78,000, mostly because a large number were filed in storm-damaged states.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. Stock indexes are inching higher in early trading Thursday after U.S. retail giants Wal-Mart and Target turned in mixed earnings reports.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

The European Union's statistics agency confirmed that the euro zone, the group of 17 countries that use the euro currency, is in recession. The economy in the region shrank 0.1 percent in the third quarter from the previous three-month period. Among the retailers disappointing Wall Street with lower earnings forecasts, Ross Stores, whose stores includes Ross Dress for Less, fell 70 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$54.44. Limited Brands dropped \$1.10, or 2.4 percent, to \$45.50. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was little changed at 1.59 percent. Among stocks making big moves: — NetApp, a data storage business, jumped \$3.08, or 11.3 percent, to \$30.20 after the company reported earnings that were higher than analysts were expecting. □

Bernanke: Banks' standards hurting economy

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Thursday that banks' overly tight lending standards may be holding back the U.S. economy by preventing credit-

a speech to the Operation HOPE Global Financial Dignity Summit in Atlanta.

Operation HOPE is a non-profit organization that provides free economic education and financial counseling to lower- and

since the Federal Reserve started buying mortgage bonds in September to encourage more borrowing and spending.

The rates have helped boost home sales and have led more people to refinance existing loans.

Yet many have been unable to take advantage of the low rates because banks now require higher credit scores, stricter income documentation and larger down payments before approving loans. The Fed has tried to make home-buying more affordable through its bond purchases. Minutes from the central bank's October meeting released on Wednesday indicated the Fed may pursue more bond purchases in the month ahead.

A new program could be announced when the Fed next meets on Dec. 11-12. In his speech, Bernanke gave no hint of what future moves the Fed might take. But he said officials at the central bank understood the problems still facing the U.S. economy. □



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke offers the keynote speech at the Operation HOPE Global Financial Dignity Summit Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, in Atlanta.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

worthy borrowers from buying homes.

Some tightening of credit standards was needed after the 2008 financial crisis, but "the pendulum has swung too far the other way," Bernanke said. Qualified borrowers are being prevented from getting home loans, he said during

middle-income Americans.

Bernanke's comments came on a day when mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said the average rate on the 30-year fixed mortgage fell to a record low of 3.34 percent. Rates have been low all year but have fallen further

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Manufacturing in Philly, New York regions shrinks

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Manufacturing shrank in the Philadelphia and New York regions this month, reflecting damage from Superstorm Sandy that disrupted area factories.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said Thursday that its index of regional manufacturing activity declined to -10.7, a five-month low. That's down from a reading of 5.7 in October, the first month of growth since April. The region includes New Jersey, which like New York was hit hardest by the storm.

A survey of conditions in the New York region was also negative. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York says its Empire State Manufacturing Index was -5.2, only slightly better than October.

Negative readings signal contraction. Positive readings show growth.

"Sandy hit the Mid-Atlantic hard," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "In Philadelphia, over 85 percent of the firms indicated they saw their activity drop and two-thirds of the firms were either severely crippled or shut down for one or two days."

Naroff said the Empire State survey showed that every respondent in New York City had suffered a decline in activity although upstate New York showed a less significant hit from the storm. Naroff said the impact from Sandy should be temporary and the economy should get a boost in coming months from reconstruction activity.

National manufacturing has slowed sharply since spring. □

Chrysler to add 1,250 jobs in Detroit-area

DEE-ANN TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler plans to add up to 1,250 jobs at three Detroit-area factories as it prepares for a rise in pickup sales.

The company said Thursday that it will invest \$238 million at engine plants in Detroit and suburban Trenton, Michigan, and add a third shift at a pickup truck factory in nearby Warren, Michigan.

The hiring is another step in Chrysler's comeback from its 2009 government-funded bankruptcy. The company, majority-owned by Italian carmaker Fiat SpA, now has about 62,200 employees worldwide, including more than 41,000 in the

U.S. It is profitable again and has hired 12,000 workers since leaving bankruptcy protection in 2009.

The new hires would boost Chrysler's total employment to 63,450.

About 1,000 of the jobs will

be at the Warren plant. That factory produces a newly redesigned Ram pickup and will add the third shift in March.

Another 250 jobs could come to the Mack 1 Engine Plant in Detroit, which will be retooled to make V-6 engines instead of a large V-8 made there currently. Those jobs will be added "subject to market conditions," Chrysler said in a statement.

The Trenton plant will get additional equipment so it can make a four-cylinder engine along with the V-6 that it currently produces for the Ram and other vehicles.

Chrysler said it has invested \$4.75 billion in the U.S. since June of 2009. □



Detroit Mayor Dave Bing speaks at the Mack 1 Engine Plant in Detroit, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012. Chrysler Group Chairman and CEO Sergio Marchionne announced Chrysler plans to add 1,250 jobs at three Detroit-area factories in the near future
(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Postal service reports \$15.9 billion loss

RON NIXON
© 2012 New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Postal Service on Thursday reported a record \$15.9 billion net loss for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, bringing the financially troubled agency another step closer to insolvency.

The widely expected loss, more than triple the service's loss last year, included accounting expenses of \$11.1 billion related to two payments that the agency was supposed to make into its future retiree health benefits fund. But because of revenue losses, the post office was for the first time forced to default on these payments, which were due in August and October.

Nearly \$5 billion in other losses were due to a decline in revenue from mailing operations. The agency also reached its \$15 billion borrowing limit from the Treasury.

Despite its financial troubles, officials said that the post office would continue to operate as usual and that employees and suppliers would be paid on time. The agency had warned that it could face a \$100 million cash crunch in October because of a decline in revenue. But the agency reported more than \$500 million in revenue from candidates, political parties and other interest groups sending out campaign mail before the election. The agency said the revenue from political mail and the holiday season should help its cash situation until Congress acts on legislation to overhaul the post office.

The agency's financial reports show that mail volume continues to decline as Americans have increasingly turned to electronic forms of communication. Total mail volume was 159.9 billion pieces, down

5 percent from 168.3 billion pieces a last year. Operating revenue was \$65.2 billion, down from \$65.7 billion over the same period.

For nearly a year, the agency has been urging Congress to pass legisla-



The US Postal Service on Thursday reported a record \$15.9 billion net loss for the fiscal year.

(Handout)

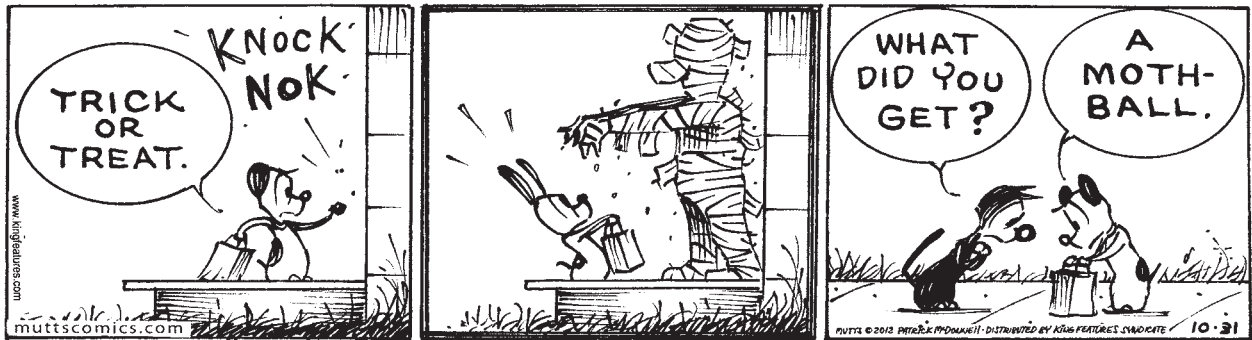
tion that would allow it to save costs including cutting back the number of days it delivers mail to five days a week, reducing annual payments required for its future retiree health fund and entering into new lines of business like delivering

beer and wine by mail.

Patrick R. Donahoe, the postmaster general, says Congress needs to act fast. "It's critical that Congress do its part and pass comprehensive legislation before they adjourn this year to move the Postal Service further down the path toward financial health," Donahoe said.

In April, the Senate passed a bill that provided incentives to retire about 100,000 postal workers, or 18 percent of its employees, and allowed the post office to recoup more than \$11 billion it overpaid into an employee pension fund. But it refused to stop Saturday deliveries. The House has taken no action, and it is unclear if the legislation will be taken up as lawmakers work to avert a series of across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to take place Jan. 1. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



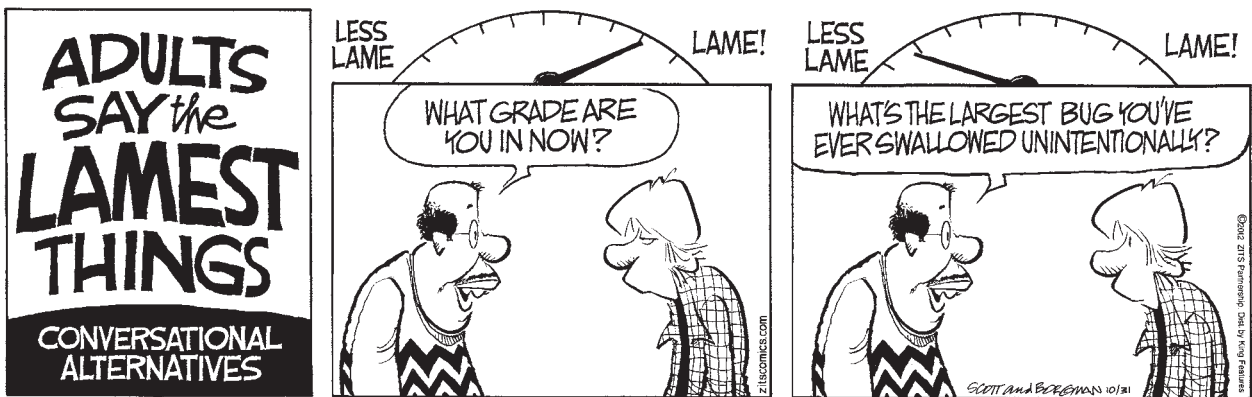
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 9 | | | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | | | 6 | | 4 | | | 8 |
| 5 | | | 2 | | | | | 9 |
| 2 | | | 3 | | | | | 5 |
| | 3 | 5 | 9 | | | | 1 | |
| | | | 8 | | | | 6 | |
| | | | 7 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | 4 | | | 5 | | |
| | 9 | 4 | | | | 8 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★

10/31

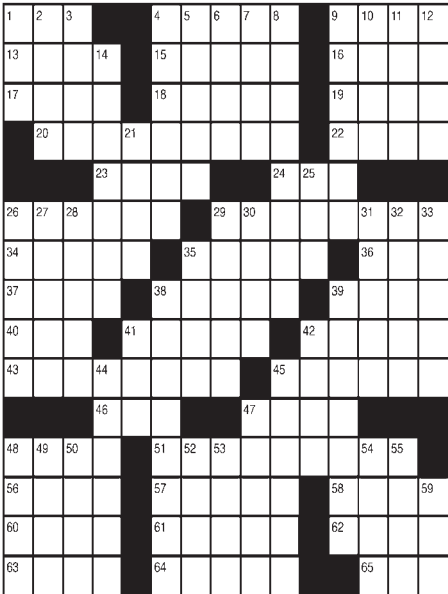
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |

ACROSS

- 1 "One, __, buckle my shoe..."
- 4 Gladden
- 9 4-qt. measures
- 13 Assistant
- 15 Postpone
- 16 Adams or Falco
- 17 Scheme; tactic
- 18 Ridiculous
- 19 One of the Three Bears
- 20 Ranch, blue cheese, etc.
- 22 Mischief makers
- 23 Before long
- 24 Actor __ Somerhalder
- 26 Tavern
- 29 Sheer nightie
- 34 Open-eyed
- 35 Remini and others
- 36 Mont Blanc, for one
- 37 Femur or ulna
- 38 Browned bread
- 39 Azure or navy
- 40 Finish
- 41 Brown shade
- 42 Exchange
- 43 Takes back, as one's offer
- 45 Unfair slants
- 46 Jamaica's official lang.
- 47 Humble; unassuming
- 48 __ pop; soft drink
- 51 About to occur
- 56 Is indebted to
- 57 Facial hair
- 58 __ lights; glow of a marquee
- 60 Escape
- 61 Big
- 62 Singer Marvin
- 63 Biting vipers
- 64 Go into
- 65 Rodent



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/31/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| APED | AMBLE | TELL |
| MENU | WOODED | IDEA |
| OTTO | ASSESSMENT | |
| SEE | ORES | TENSE |
| RANDY | GEL | |
| APPLES | PRAYER | |
| WORMS | BREAK | NAY |
| ASIA | GLEAM | OGRE |
| YES | ERUPT | SIREN |
| DEALER | HONORS | |
| TOY | MONKS | |
| SLOOP | BORG | SOS |
| CONNECTION | VINE | |
| ABLE | BELLE | INCA |
| BOYS | SALAD | AGES |

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10/31/12

DOWN

- 1 Touch lightly
- 2 Untamed

- 3 Smell
- 4 "The Wizard of Menlo Park"
- 5 Bolshevik leader Vladimir
- 6 Actor __ Alda
- 7 Orangy drink
- 8 Vision
- 9 Zodiac sign
- 10 Eve's husband
- 11 Favor one leg
- 12 Bodies of water
- 14 Ugly sight
- 21 Chimney flue coating
- 25 Capp & Gore
- 26 Sword with a curved blade
- 27 Without companions
- 28 Gives, but expects back
- 29 Certain tides
- 30 At __; relaxed
- 31 Celebrations
- 32 Escape the grasp of
- 33 Thrusting weapons
- 35 Noisy
- 38 Real; concrete
- 39 Decelerating
- 41 Rin Tin __
- 42 __ up; bound
- 44 Discontinues
- 45 Drinking spree
- 47 Come together
- 48 Couch
- 49 Hooting birds
- 50 As __ as the ocean
- 52 Cruel
- 53 Portion
- 54 Close by
- 55 Spanish artist
- 59 Tennis court divider

Going on the pill (the blue one)

JOYCE WADLER
© 2012 New York Times

I have noticed, in the bragging-rights department, that "he doesn't need Viagra" has become the female equivalent of the male "and, I swear, she's a real blonde." Personally, I do not care a bit. To me, anything that keeps you happy and in the game is a good thing.

But then, I am proud to say, I was among the early (and from what I gather, rare) female users.

It happened when the drug was introduced around 1998. I was 50, but after chemotherapy for breast cancer – and later, advanced ovarian cancer – I was, hormonally speaking, pretty much running on fumes. Whether this had diminished my sex drive I did not yet know. One may have Zorba-esque impulses when a cancer diagnosis first comes in; but a treatment that leaves you bald, moon-faced and exhausted knocks that out of your system pretty fast.

But by 1998, the cancer was gone, my hair was back and I was ready to meet someone. I was talking to an endocrinologist when I brought up Viagra. This was not to deal with the age-related physical changes that I knew it would not address, it was more along the feminist lines of equal pay for equal work: If men have this new sex drug, I want this new sex drug.

"I know it's supposed to work by increasing blood flow," I told the doctor. "But if that's true for men, shouldn't it be true for women, too?"

"You're the third woman who asked me that this week," he said.

He wrote me a prescription. I was not seeing anyone, so I understood that I would have to do both parts myself, but that was fine. I have a low drug threshold and thought it might be best the first time to fly solo. My memory of the directions are hazy: I think there was a warning that one might have a facial flush or headaches or drop dead of a heart attack; that

you were to take a pill at least an hour before you planned to get lucky; and, as zero hour approached, you were supposed to help things along by thinking beautiful thoughts, kind of like Peter Pan teaching Wendy and the boys how to fly.

But you know how it is: It's hard to think beautiful thoughts when you're

human relations (Saturday night date assumed), my official boyfriend. He is middle-aged, in good health. How to describe our romantic life with the delicacy required? Perhaps a line from "Veronika, der Lenz ist da" ("Veronica, Spring Is Here"), a song popularized by the German group the Comedian Harmonists: "Veronika, der Spargel



Although it's rare, female users of Viagra can benefit from it. (Daniel Vasconcellos/The New York Times)

wondering, "Is it happening? Do I feel anything? Woof, woof? Hello, sailor? Naaah."

After about an hour, however, I was aware of a dramatic change. I had developed a red flush on my face; I was a hot tomato, though not the kind I had planned. I had also developed a horrible headache. The sex pill had turned into a bad joke: not now, honey, I have a headache.

I put a cold cloth on my head and went to sleep. But here's where it got good: When I slept, I dreamed, one of those extraordinary, sensual, swimming-in-silk sort of things. I woke up dazed and glowing with just one thought: I have to get this baby out on the highway and see what it can do.

A few months later, I am fixed up with a guy, and after a time he is, under the Seinfeldian definition of

Waechst" ("Veronica, the asparagus are blooming"). On the other hand, sometimes not. And so, one day, I put it out there in the manner of sport.

"Want to drop some Viagra?" I ask.

Here we go again, falling into what I am beginning to think is an inevitable pattern: lying there like a lox, or two lox, waiting for the train to pull into the station. (Yes, I know it's a mixed metaphor, but at least I didn't bring in the asparagus.) So there we are, waiting. And then, suddenly, spring comes to Suffolk County. It's such a presence. I'm wondering if I should ask it if it hit traffic on the expressway. We sit there staring.

My physical reaction is less impressive: I don't get a headache this time. And romantically, things are more so, but not so much that I feel compelled to try the little blue pills again. □

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Violence Against Women



DOCTOR ON DUTY
ORANJESTAD

16 November
Dr. Mungra



Pharmacy on duty
ORANJESTAD:

Botica Sta. Anna Tel: 586-8181

SAN NICOLAAS:

Botica Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794



Police

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Police | 581-1100 |
| Oranjestad | 582-4000 |
| Noord | 587-0009 |
| Sta. Cruz | 585-4710 |
| Savaneta | 584-7000 |
| San Nicolas | 584-5000 |

Emergency Numbers



| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| Police | 100 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Fire Dept. II | 582-1108 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Hospital | 527-4000 |

Oranjestad

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|-----------|----------|
| Ambulance | 582-1234 |
| Police | 582-4000 |

San Nicolas

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|-----------------|----------|
| Ambulance | 584-5050 |
| Police Station | 584-5000 |
| BGD San Nicolas | 584-1606 |
| Valero Security | 584-1720 |

Services

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Information | 118 |
| Setar | 582-5151 |
| Taxi | 582-2116 |
| Taxi- Tas | 587-5900 |
| Professional Taxi | 588-0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587-2300 |
| Service Aruba | 583-3232 |

CRUISE SHIP



Nov. 16 Crown Princess
Westerdam

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Aruba Airport | Tel: 524-2424 |
| American Airlines | Tel: 582-2700 |
| Avianca | Tel: 588-0059 |
| Dutch Antilles | Tel: 588-1900 |
| Insel Air | Tel: 588-9314 |
| Jet Blue | Tel: 588-2244 |
| Spirit Airlines | Tel: 582-7117 |
| Suriname Airways | Tel: 582-7896 |
| Tiara Air | Tel: 588-4272 |
| Venezolana | Tel: 583-7674 |

Foundation Fellowship Clinic

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed
Foundation Anti-Droga
Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

Foundation Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

[illegible]



Barbadian singer Rihanna performs during the first stop of her 777 worldwide tour at the Plaza Condesa in Mexico City, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. Associated Press

Rihanna begins her 7-day world tour in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Seven concerts. Seven cities. Seven days. Rihanna began her "777" tour in Mexico City Wednesday night with an exclusive party for about 2,000 fans. Dressed in black shorts, a small black top and a black boxing robe, Rihanna was welcomed on the stage of the El Plaza Condesa concert hall with an ovation despite being two hours late. She thanked fans for their patience. "This is incredible! Thank you very much for your patience. You really make me feel loved here," said the 24-year-old singer before opening the concert with "Cockiness (Love It)."

The show was a taste of what's to come in her "Diamonds World Tour" scheduled for the first half of 2013. Rihanna arrived in Mexico City on a Boeing 777, which will take her to Toronto, Stockholm, Paris, Berlin, London and finally New York, where she will complete the grueling tour and present her latest album, "Unapologetic." She also sang "Fresh Off The Runway" and "Diamonds" from her new album, which features collaborations with Eminem, David Guetta, Future and former boyfriend, Chris Brown. "We've waited a long time to get back here, Mexico City!" said the singer. □

Levine, Bieber lead People's Choice nominees

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Adam Levine spans music and television with his leading six nominations for the People's Choice Awards. The Maroon 5 frontman and star of TV's "The Voice" is up for favorite band, song, album and music video, along with favorite celebrity judge and favorite competition TV show. Nominations were announced Thursday at the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, California. Justin Bieber has five nods, followed by the newly crowned "Sexiest Man Alive" Channing Tatum with four. "Glee" was the most-nominated TV show with five, and "The Aveng-



This Feb. 20, 2012 file photo shows Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine in New York. Associated Press

ers" leads movie nominees with eight. Fans chose the nominees by voting online and can do the same to select the winners. Voting in 48 categories continues through Dec. 13. The People's Choice Awards will be presented Jan. 9, 2013, and broadcast on CBS. □

'30 Rock' heroine Liz Lemon to wed this month

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Liz Lemon is getting married and you're invited.

Fans of "30 Rock" might have reasonably assumed that Lemon, the harried TV producer played by Tina Fey, would ride out the series' seventh and final season as a perennial bachelorette unlucky in love. But Fey, who is also the creator and producer of the NBC comedy, clearly thought otherwise.

In the "30 Rock" episode airing Nov. 29, Lemon will wed.

Who's the lucky guy? He's Liz's latest fella, Criss Chross (played by guest star James Marsden), a Peter Pan-ish would-be entrepreneur who hatches ventures such as an organic gourmet hot dog truck.

On Thursday, NBC made the grand announcement that Ms. Elizabeth Miervaldis Lemon, 42, would be presenting herself to be married to Mr. Crissopher Rick Chross — "But not in a creepy way that perpetuates the idea that brides are virgins and women are property."

The invitation also specifies that guests (i.e., viewers) should plan to "bring your own snacks."

No preview of the episode has been made available. The series will conclude early next year.

"30 Rock" is the saga of Lemon, the overextended



This undated image released by NBC shows James Marsden as Criss, right, and Tina Fey as Liz Lemon in a scene from "30 Rock." The characters will wed on the "30 Rock" episode that airs Nov. 29. Associated Press

producer of a fictitious comedy show loosely inspired by "Saturday Night Live" (where Fey toiled for nine seasons as cast member and writer).

Liz is surrounded by comrades like company boss Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) and Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan), her boisterously unhinged star.

A recurring theme of "30 Rock" has been Lemon's comically flawed love life.

Short-lived boyfriends have included quirky airline pilot Carol Burnett (played by Matt Damon), immature businessman Dennis Duffy (Dean Cain) and dimwitted pediatrician Dr. Drew Baird (Jon Hamm).

But clearly there was something special about Criss, who first arrived on the scene last season.

Even before meeting him, Donaghy was disapproving: "Lemon, I have said 'Good God' to you before," he huffed, "but I don't think I've ever MEANT it until now: Good God!!!" But Criss is different, Liz insisted: "I'm more relaxed around him."

My jaws stopped popping. And for once I'm not overthinking everything."

Jack wasn't convinced. He noted that Criss is a puppy-dog-eager dork who carries a Sunglass Hut credit card and owns a ukulele plastered with an Obama sticker.

Is this a match made in heaven? The wedding invitation says,

"Whatever. It's no big whoop." But the episode is sure to be a very big whoop. □

Heroin charge dropped vs. Bon Jovi's daughter

CLINTON, New York (AP)

— A central New York prosecutor says drug charges against Jon Bon Jovi's 19-year-old daughter have been dropped.

Stephanie Bongiovi was found unresponsive by medics after she apparently overdosed on heroin in a Hamilton College dorm early Wednesday.

Town of Kirkland police charged Bongiovi, of Red Bank, N.J., and another student with possession of a

small amount of heroin and marijuana.

Oneida County District Attorney Scott McNamara said Thursday he was dismissing the charges against both students. Under state law, someone having a drug overdose or seeking help for an overdose victim can't be prosecuted for having a small amount of heroin or any amount of marijuana.

Bon Jovi is scheduled to perform a concert to ben-



This Dec. 7, 2011 file photo shows Stephanie Bongiovi, daughter of rocker Jon Bon Jovi, at the premiere of "New Year's Eve" at Ziegfeld Theatre in New York. Associated Press

efit Hamilton on Dec. 5. He has not commented on his daughter. □

Erdrich wins National Book Award for fiction

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Book Awards has honored both longtime writers and new authors, from Louise Erdrich for "The Round House" to Katherine Boo for her debut work, "Beyond the Beautiful Forevers."

Erdrich, 58, has been a published and highly regarded author for nearly 30 years but had never won a National Book Award until being cited Wednesday for her story, the second of a planned trilogy, about an Ojibwe boy and his quest to avenge his mother's rape. A clearly delighted and surprised Erdrich, who's part Ojibwe, spoke in her tribal tongue and then switched to English as she dedicated her fiction award to "the grace and endurance of native people."

The works of two other winners also centered on young boys — Boo's for

nonfiction, and William Alexander's fantasy "Goblin Secrets," for young people's literature. David Ferry won for poetry.

Boo's book, set in a Mumbai slum, is the story of a boy and his harsh and illuminating education in the consequences of crime or perceived crime. The author, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist currently on staff with The New Yorker, said she was grateful for the chance to live in a world she "didn't know" and for the chance to tell the stories of those otherwise ignored. She praised a fellow nominee and fellow Pulitzer-winning reporter, the late Anthony Shadid, for also believing in stories of those without fame or power.

Boo was chosen from one of the strongest lists of non-fiction books in memory, from the fourth volume of Robert Caro's Lyndon Johnson series to Shadid's



This May 16, 2008 file photo shows author Louise Erdrich at her store BirchBark Books in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

memoir "House of Stone." Finalists in fiction, which in recent years favored lesser known writers, included such established names as Dave Eggers and Junot Diaz. Publishers have been concerned that the National Book Awards have become too insular and are considering changes, including expanding the pool of judges beyond writers.

Winners, chosen by panels of their peers, each will receive \$10,000. Judges looked through nearly 1,300 books.

Ferry is a year older than one of the night's honorary recipients, Elmore Leonard. Ferry, 88, won for "Bewilderment: New Poems and Translations," a showcase for his versatile style. He fought back tears as he confided that he thought

there was a chance for winning because he "was so much older" than the other nominees. Attempting to find poetry in victory, he called the award a "pre-posthumous" honor. Alexander quoted fellow fantasy writer Ursula K. Le Guin in highlighting the importance of stories for shaping kids' imaginations and making the world a larger place than the one they live in. "We have to remember that," Alexander said. The ceremony was hosted by commentator-performer Faith Salie and went smoothly even though Superstorm Sandy badly damaged the offices of the award's organizer, the National Book Foundation, whose staffers had to work with limited telephone and mail access.

Honorary prizes were given to Leonard and New York Times publisher and chairman Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. □

Andre 3000 isn't in a rush to record new album

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In order to capture his best version of Jimi Hendrix for an upcoming biopic, Andre 3000 said he had to think of him as a regular dude and not a rock star.

"I didn't look at him as an icon because when you're in it, you don't know you're an icon. You don't know you're an icon until another people say you're an icon," the 37-year-old said in an interview Tuesday.

"So I had to take it as a person, you know what I mean? And I just tried to say, 'Well, what would Jimi want people to know that they can't get off of YouTube?' And that's how I approached it," he said.

Hendrix died at age 27 in 1970. He was ranked No. 1 on Rolling Stone magazine's greatest guitarists of all-time list. His band, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, is known for iconic albums such as "Electric Ladyland" and "Are You Experienced."



This Nov. 13, 2012 file photo shows musician and actor Andre Benjamin, better known as Andre 3000, during a promotional event for Gillette in New York.

"All Is by My Side," which focuses on the early days of Hendrix's career, will be released next year. Andre 3000 is excited to see the film, which he's finished shooting in Ireland. He believes the public "will be pleased."

Andre 3000, one-half of OutKast with Big Boi, has been out of the music scene in recent years, although he's been featured

on songs by Beyonce, Frank Ocean, Rick Ross, Ke\$ha and Young Jeezy.

OutKast's 2006 platinum-selling album, "Idlewild," which accompanied a film of the same name starring the duo, was their last album. Their 11-time platinum "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" won the 2004 Grammy Award for album of the year.

Big Boi, who released a solo

album two years ago to welcoming reviews, will release a new solo disc, "Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors," next month.

But Andre 3000 isn't in a rush to record an album.

"Some days I feel like I'll do it, some days I don't. Some days I feel like I don't need to, some days I feel like I want to do it before I die. So, I don't know where to fall. I am just hoping one day I get that inspiration," he said at an event for Gillette's eMO'gency Styler Tour, which supports men's health and prostate cancer programs. The tour kicked off in New York, with stops scheduled in Chicago and Houston.

"It's a feeling for me. Like, I can't just throw out an album to be rapping," he said. "And I don't even know if it will be rap. I don't even know what it will be." However, he could find the inspiration and complete an album in just a few days: "It could be a rush situation. Like if I feel that feeling and I record an album

in three days and I'm like, 'This is what I want to say right now' — that can happen, too."

He also says he's constantly writing songs.

"I write all the time. ... I actually stopped typing it in my phone because like a cloud is basically reading every thought that I have and I don't like that," he said. "So I went back to my paper and started writing." He's not sure fans want a new OutKast album for the right reasons.

"Man, we've had a great ride. ... Like when we got into it when we were high school kids and we just wanted to do something fun and push it, and if it's not that then why do it?" he said.

"I'm not the type that prescribes to nostalgia, and most people say they want an OutKast album because they used to love it. Y'all don't even know if y'all still love it. You just know you used to love it. But you may not like it now, who knows?" □

Obama The Dealmaker



DAVID BROOKS
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During his first term, President Barack Obama faced a wicked problem: How do you govern in a highly polarized, evenly divided country with House Republicans who seem unwilling to compromise? Obama never really solved that one, and he was forced to pass his agenda on partisan lines (during the first two years) or not pass it at all (the final two).

Now re-elected with Republicans still in control of the House, Obama faces the problem again. You might say the success of his second term rests upon his solving it. Some on the left are suggesting that he adopt a strategy of confrontation and conquest. The president should use the advantages of victory to crush the spirit of the Republican House majority, they say. Reject the Grand Bargain approach. Instead, take the country over the fiscal cliff. Blame it on the Republicans who are unwilling to even raise taxes on the rich. Wait until they fold, and then you will have your way.

The first thing to say about this strategy is that it is irresponsible. The recovery is fragile. Europe may crater. China is ill. Business is pulling back at the mere anticipation of a fiscal cliff. It's reckless to think you can manufacture an economic crisis for political leverage and then control the cascading results.

Second, it's terrible politics. Obama could probably triumph in a short-term confrontation, pushing through higher tax rates on the rich that wouldn't even produce enough revenue to cover a tenth of the deficit. But he'd sow such bitterness that it would be the last thing he'd pass for the rest of his term. The Republican House majority isn't going to magically disappear.

Finally, it misunderstands the state of the GOP. This is not the Republican Party of 2010. Today's Republicans no longer have an incentive to deny Obama victories. He's never running again. Most of today's Republicans understand that they need to decontaminate their brand. They're more open to compromise, more likely to be won over with dealmaking than browbeating.

The liberal left wing, like the Tea Party types, has an incentive to build television ratings by fulminating against its foes. But Obama and John Boehner

have an incentive to create a low-decibel businesslike atmosphere. The opinion-entertainment complex longs for the war track. The practitioners should long for the dealmaking track. Before he gets lost in the mire of negotiations, the president could step back and practically describe the task ahead. Between 1947 and 2007, the U.S. economy grew an average of 3.3 percent a year. But over the next few decades, according to forecasts from the Congressional Budget Office, it's projected to grow only at 2.3 percent per year. The task ahead is to make the sort of structural changes that will get America back on its old growth trajectory.

Then the president could remind everyone that there's lots to do. Some of the things on the to-do list are things Democrats relish doing: investing in infrastructure and basic research; reforming immigration to attract global talent; investing in student loans and community colleges; trimming the annual \$1.1 trillion in tax loopholes, many of which go to corporations and the rich. Other things the Republicans will surely relish doing: simplifying a tax code that has bloated to 74,000 pages; streamlining the Code of Federal Regulation that has metastasized to 165,000 pages; slowing entitlement spending.

But the point is the only way to get things done in a divided polarized country is side by side – an acceptable Democratic project paired with an acceptable Republican one.

The fiscal-cliff talks are just the first chapter in this long process. In this first episode, the Democrats should get higher revenues from the rich (elections have consequences) and the Republicans should get some entitlement reform. But the main point is to lay the predicate for the bigger deals to come.

This is about horse-trading. It's about conducting meetings in which people don't lecture each other; they deal. It's about isolating those who want an economic culture war. It's about making clear offers and counteroffers.

If you want a great example of how these deals might work, check out a new paper at Third Way (thirdway.org/publications/613) called "The Bargain." It offers a perfect model of how you might structure a series of big trades to move the country back on the growth path – on innovation policy, tax policy, spending policy and so on.

The more you put on the table, the more trading is possible, the better the atmosphere and the more you might get done. If you only put one idea on the table at a time, then everybody gets gridlocked and nothing gets done.

The economic crisis interrupted him last time, but Obama still has a chance to build a great middle-class economy. It'll take a dealmaker, not a warrior. □



Reputation, Reputation, Reputation



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2012 New York Times

WASHINGTON – As Lyndon Johnson said, the two things that make leaders stupid are envy and sex. Macbeth kills a king out of envy. Egged on by an envious Iago, Othello smothers his wife out of a crazed fear of her having sex with his lieutenant.

Now another charismatic general has shattered his life and career over sex. When you've got a name like a Greek hero, and a nickname like a luscious fruit, isn't hubris ripe to follow?

It's been a steep fall for Peaches Petraeus, once the darling of Congress and journalists, Republicans and Democrats, Paula Broadwell and Jill Kelley.

Washington is suffused with schadenfreude. Yet President Barack Obama and others felt genuinely sad to see a man so controlling about integrity and image – he warned proteges that "someone is always watching" – spin out of control on integrity and image. As Shakespeare wrote in "Othello": "Reputation, reputation, reputation."

As a West Point cadet, David Petraeus clambered up the social ladder by winning the superintendent's daughter; now he has been brought down by his camp followers clambering up the social ladder.

Even when he was the CIA director, Petraeus' ego was so wrapped up in being a shiny military idol that, according to The Washington Post, he recently surprised guests at a D.C. dinner

when he arrived to speak wearing his medals on the lapel of his suit jacket.

His fall started as Sophocles and turned sophomoric, a mind-boggling melange of "From Here to Eternity," "You've Got Mail," "The Real Housewives of Centcom" and "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." It features toned arms, slinky outfits, a cat fight, titillating emails, a military more consumed with sex than violence, a plot with more inconceivable twists than "Homeland" and a Twitter's-delight lexicon: an "embedded" mistress named Broadwell, a biography called "All In," an other woman of Middle East ancestry who was a "social liaison" to the military, a shirtless FBI agent crushing on the losing-her-shirt-to-debt Tampa socialite, a pair of generals helping the socialite's twin sister with a custody case and lawyers and crisis-management experts linked to Monica Lewinsky, John Edwards and the ABC show "Scandal."

"This is 'The National Enquirer,'" an alarmed Sen. Dianne Feinstein told Wolf Blitzer of CNN. If only it were that highbrow. Now that erotic activity is entwined with the Internet, rather than closeted in hideaway Capitol offices and Oval Office pantries, it's even more likely to be a trip wire for history.

It is disturbing that an ethically sketchy, politically motivated FBI agent could spark an incendiary federal investigation tunneling into private lives to help a woman he liked and later blow it up to hurt a president he didn't like. It's also worrisome that the nation's spymaster – who had presided in a military where adultery could result in court-martial – could not have found a more clandestine manner of talking naughtily to his biographer babe than a Gmail drop box, a semiprivate file-sharing system used by terrorists, teenagers and authors. It's understandable that men accustomed to being away from

their families and cloistered with other men in Muslim countries where drinking and blowing off steam are frowned upon might get used to cavorting on email. But Petraeus should have realized that the Chinese and Russians were snooping and sent Paula Broadwell an Enigma email: "I would like your insights into the debate over COIN versus CT in Helmand province. Our HVT kills are falling a little short of the mark. Let's discuss."

And Broadwell could have sent ones more like: "I've been reading Chapter 3 notes and the Galula theory of counterinsurgency confuses me. Hope you can clarify."

The scandal is a good reminder that, although John McCain and Sarah Palin urge total trust and blank checks for the generals, these guys are human beings working under extremely stressful circumstances, and their judgments are not beyond reproach. Petraeus' Icarus flight began when he set himself above Obama.

Accustomed to being a demigod, expert at polishing his own celebrity and swaying public opinion, Petraeus did not accept the new president's desire to head for the nearest exit ramp on Afghanistan in 2009. The general began lobbying for a surge in private sessions with reporters and undercutting the president, who was trying to make a searingly hard call.

Petraeus rolled the younger commander in chief into going ahead with a bound-to-fail surge in Afghanistan, just as, half-a-century earlier, the CIA had rolled Jack Kennedy into going ahead with the bound-to-fail Bay of Pigs scheme. Both missions defied logic, but the untested presidents put aside their own doubts and instincts, caving to experience. Once in Afghanistan, Petraeus welcomed prominent conservative hawks from Washington think tanks. □

Bushiri Karting Nationals: “Grand Finals & Drift Taxi Event”



On Sunday, November 18, there will be the Last karting competition & Drift Taxi event for this year at the only karting track on the island, Bushiri Karting Speedway!

On this day there will be competition in the professional category and will start at 9am, and also after the race at 2pm they will start with the Drift Taxi Event! Here the best Drifters of the island will be Drifting on the Bushiri Karting Speedway Track and everyone can pay a fee and sit in the passenger seat of the Drifter and feel the Adrenaline of Drifting! There will be great music, food & drinks and ambiance all day long, and after the race the track will be open for Rentals where everyone can Rent Go Karts for only \$18.

Bushiri Karting Speedway is the only karting facility on the island where everyone can Rent Go Karts. We have 16 Rentals karts, 10 for Adults of 270cc 9 horsepower that can reach up to 50mph, and 6 for juniors of 160cc 6 horsepower. The Karts are safe and they provide helmets and safety briefing before going on the track. The track is open every day from 10am till sunset, and is situated behind Ling & Sons Supermarket, just minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels. For more information call: 583-5278 or visit our website: www.bushirkarting.com. □



Kristen Stewart wears Louis Vuitton at the Red Carpet premier of 'Twilight: Breaking Dawn' at the Kumamo Shrine in Japan.

Kristen Stewart chooses Louis Vuitton for Twilight Red Carpet film premiere

Kristen Stewart stepped out in amazing style for her first premiere Red Carpet appearance wearing a Louis Vuitton spring-summer 2013 look on October 24 at the Kumamo Shrine in Japan. While thousands of screaming fans raved about her presence, with high expectations for the final Twilight movie, photographers and fashion critics raved about her choice of designer and the perfection of her youthful, yet refined and sophisticated look.

Kristen's monochrome checkered Louis Vuitton playsuit needed little accessorizing and she perfected the sexy, self-confident look with just a pair of fierce black strappy stilettos and a few simple jewels; she wore her hair loose and her makeup flawless.

While Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2 premieres have been taking place these past two weeks in larger markets worldwide, Aruban fans are getting ready for the November 15 never-done-before “movie marathon-style” premiere on the island.

Louis Vuitton Aruba boutique, located at Renaissance Mall, features precious pieces from Louis Vuitton classics to the latest in LV fashion and accessories. Visit www.louisvuitton.com for the spring-summer 2013 collection Paris Week launch fashion show. □